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PEREZ DE CUELLAR, BELAUNDE OPEN ECLA MEETING

PY050210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2207 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 4 Apr (EFE) -- The UN secretary general today called for the "mobilization of joint efforts" so as to make possible "a sustained progress toward a new international economic order," when opening the 20th meeting of ECLA which is taking place in Lima. Javier Perez de Cuellar drew a somber but at the same time hopeful picture of the situation of the Third World and stressed that it is important for the North-South dialogue to be resumed. The UN secretary general indicated that "the prosperity of Northern nations is based on the growth of Southern nations," and added that to achieve a more dynamic world-wide growth "a more flexible and equitable international division of labor is required." He said that "in order to maintain international peace and security, a less unfair international order is needed."

Today the 20th meeting of ECLA in Lima started its ministerial phase with Perez de Cuellar and Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry attending.

The enormous Latin American foreign debt and the social and economic costs of the adjustment policies which the nations of the region have launched, are two of the main subjects of the ECLA meeting, which started at the level of experts last Thursday.

In connection with these issues, Javier Perez de Cuellar spoke of the negative effects which recession has had in Latin America and of the decline of exports and the ensuring unemployment and underemployment. He also talked about the high interest rates implemented by developed nations "which make the servicing of the foreign debt extremely difficult and curtail the flow of savings with which industrialized nations contribute to the development of peripheral nations."

Perez de Cullar made it clear, however, that "Latin America has the resources necessary to cope with the crisis" and added that "the main task which we Latin Americans have ahead of us" is to stimulate the use of these resources. The UN secretary general insisted that "overall solutions" based on international cooperation must be sought, although he added that "paradoxically" the "spirit of multilateral cooperation is running the risk of severly declining" in these times of growing international interdependence.

Perez de Cuellar concluded his speech with this thought on justice. "A society marked by poverty and the exclusion of large national sectors will be unable to attain full respect for the rights of man." He added: "The state lacking an equitable and democratic foundation will be unable to implement stable development formulas."

For his part, the Peruvian president's speech dealt mainly with Latin American models for economic recovery. "We all know," Belaunde said, "of the healthy but severe guidelines of international economic organizations, we are all aware of the need to cut down public expenditures; however, this jeopardizes capitalization projects which our nations sorely need." Belaunde went on to expain that Latin America is suffering from "a shortage of funds and a surplus of manpower"; thus, we must count on understanding and support from the developed world to carry out development projects "capable of giving work to the manpower and using the raw materials which each country can supply."

The Peruvian president, whose nation is experiencing one of the worst crises in its history, feels that the wealthy nations must realize that their understanding will benefit everyone, because "the failure of Latin America to pay its foreign obligations will unleash the worst financial disaster since 1930, in which the main international banks will go bankrupt one after another."

The 20th ECLA meeting will continue until Friday. Attending are representatives of the 39 member-states and some 20 Latin American economic ministers.

More on Opening Speeches

PY051450 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Today UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called for a new international economic order, advocating an overall solution for the Latin Amrican foreign debt problem. Perez de Cuellar made these remarks during the 20th ECLA meeting which was inaugurated by President Fernando Belaunde Terry in the Sheraton Hotel. During the opening session, President Belaunde Terry made a proposal to reconcile fiscal discipline and austerity with economic reactivation, a proposal he labeled as austerity without economic recession.

BANANA EXPORTERS HOLD CONFEENCE IN PANAMA

PA011815 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Mar 84 p 3 C

["Resolution CM/X1" issued at the 10th Conference of Ministers of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries, UPEB, on 22 March in Panama City]

[Text] The 10th Conference of UPEB Ministers, held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on 22 March 1982, with the participation of Ecuador. Taking into consideration the various speeches delivered by the gentlemen members of UPEB and participants from Ecuador, resolves:

For the purposes of the Eighth Meeting of the Exporters Subgroup slated for 3-6 April in Rome within the framework of FAO, the UPEB countries and Ecuador state the following:

1. Their determined support for the idea of achieving a true reorganization of the market through the signing of an international banana agreement.

2. They also ask the FAO Secretariat to convoke as soon as possible the working group that for various reasons has remained inactive for many years.

3. UPEB and Ecuador reiterate their determination to cooprate harmoniously and permanently with the FAO Secretariat, in order to see the implementation of an international banana agreement.

Panama City, Republic of Panama, 22 March 1984

Francisco Morales, agriculture and livestock minister of Costa Rica; Dr Cecilia de Rodriguez, deputy agriculture minister of Colombia; Jose Enrique Mejia, deputy economy secretary of Honduras; Ramon Sieiro, agricultural development minister of Panama and president of the 10th Conference of UPEB Ministers; Leonel Hernandez, economy minister of Guatemala; Bernardo Chamorro, deputy foreign trade minister of Nicaragua; Magda M. de Marrero, Dominican Republic admbassador in Panama, Cesar Rondon Lovera, Venezuelan ambassador in Panama.

GRINSPUN: LOAN PACKAGE NOT LINKED WITH IMF TALKS

PY051915 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1550 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun affirmed today that the recent renegotiation of overdue interest service on the foreign debt is not tied to an agreement with the IMF and that it is independent of the negotiations which are under way with the IMF. He added that the solution for that renegotiation was not due to an initiative of the U.S. Government, but the other way around.

Grinspun revealed that the commitment signed by Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, the U.S. Treasury, and private banks resulted from an initiative of Mexican Economy Minister Jesus Silva Herzog whom Grinspun contacted in Punta del Este, and with whom he later kept in touch by phone.

During a presentation to almost 100 deputies and senators who gathered this morning at the National Congress, Grinspun noted that the commitment signed will have no restrictive effects in the social area and that the government will proceed with its policy of real salary increases, because expansion of the economy is the guideline in negotiations with the IMF.

During his presentation, Grinspun pointed out that the only guarantee the Argentine Government gave to the countries which cosigned the agreement on the overdue interest on the foreign debt was the signature of the constitutional government, and that there are no secret clauses, but only the obligation to repay the lending countries. Grinspun emphasized that there are no questions on nuclear policy involved and that normalization of relations with Great Britain was not even mentioned.

As for the interest rates which were agreed upon, Grinspun stated that the LIBOR [London Inter-Bank Offered Rate] is the only one applied, because this agreement bears no commissions. The economy minister said that the countries which cosigned the agreement had offered a flat LIBOR rate, but Argentina asked them to accept LIBOR plus 1 percentage point, in consideration that they are also facing payments on their foreign debts. The minister revealed that the interest rate agreed upon with the private banks is LIBOR plus one-eighth.

Replying to a question asked by a congressman about the guidelines Argentina will follow in the letter of intent to be signed with the IMF, the economy minister emphasized that no recessionary formula will be accepted and added that the negotiation on the overdue interest service was favorable.

The minister then said that the largest agreement did not stem from an initiative of the U.S. Government, but from an initiative of Mexican Economy Minister Silva Herzog. We then consulted other Latin American countries, and also considered advisable the participation of the U.S. Treasury and private banks to dispel the appearance of a confrontation, because we wanted a lasting agreement resulting from the consensus of parties seeking a solution.

Grinspun denounced the campaign by the international and the national press to make it look like a confrontation when we were trying to have a negotiation that did not even appear tense.

During his presentation, Grinspun denied that the latest agreement is tied to an agreement with the IMF, because it is independent from the IMF; he also explained that the presence of the U.S. ambassador in the last sessions during which the agreement was concluded was limited to accompanying U.S. Treasury officials.

Finally, at the request of some congressmen, the economy minister promised to send copies of the memorandum of understanding to the presidents of the two chambers, so that all deputies and senators can directly apprise themselves of its content.

COMMUNIQUE SIGNED AT END OF DE LA MADRID'S VISIT

PY050310 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0015 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (TELAM) -- The presidents of Argentina and Mexico, Raul Alfonsin and Miguel de la Madrid, today ratified their commitment to promote effective measure with an eye to finally achieving complete nuclear disarmament on a nondiscriminatory basis and reaffirmed the need for Latin American integration.

This is contained in the joint communique that the two chiefs of state signed this afternoon in Government House. The joint communique also states that the two chiefs of state carefully studied bilateral relations and they stressed the political desire of their governments to give preferential attention to the development of their countries in the fields of political, economic, financial, educational, cultural, and scientific-technical cooperation.

The communique establishes a mechanism for consultation between the two governments to permit the drafting of proposals, agreements regarding positions to be adopted, and the development of joint action on bilateral, regional, and international topics of mutual interest. The mechanism establishes a system of regular consultations between the foreign ministers of the two countries, signed a memorandum of understanding regarding this.

On asserting the independent nature of the foreign policies of their countries, the two presidents warned that the confrontational policy of the blocs is a threat to humanity and that it is an attack against the aspirations of the self-determination and democracy of nations.

They condemned the arms race, especially the purchase and stocking of weapons of massive destruction, and they stressed the irrationality of this conduct when urgent problems of development and subsistence exist in extensive regions of the planet.

President Alfonsin reaffirmed the decision of his government not to use the development of Argentina's nuclear technology for warlike ends, in accordance with the spirit of the treaty for the banning of nuclear weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco Treaty). Seriously concerned about the danger of the constant qualitative and quantitative increase of nuclear arsenals throughout the world, the two chiefs of state ratified their commitment for the promotion of effective measures with an eye to finally achieving complete nuclear disarmament on a nondiscriminatory basis.

They also reaffirmed that they are in agreement with the principles and objectives of the nonaligned countries that reject hegemonic intentions and that seek to guarantee the political and economic independence of the countries of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and other regions.

On declaring their firm support for the processes of political opening and democratization in Latin America, they stressed the importance of strengthening their capability for united and coordinated action.

The two presidents held a comprehensive exchange of views on human rights and pointed out that efforts must be made to ensure that those rights are respected in Latin America. They agreed to undertake joint actions within international organizations and to firmly support the efforts that those organizations make in their mission of preserving human rights.

The two presidents also underlined the need to strengthen and preserve the right of asylum, in keeping with the will of Latin American nations.

They reiterated their governments' support for the decolonization process and deplored the existance of colonial enclaves in the continent. In this regard, President De la Madrid reiterated his country's support for the Argentine sovereignty claim over the Malvinas Islands. The Mexican president remarked that he had absolute confidence that this dispute, which has elicited an unequivocal response from Latin America, will be settled peacefully, in keeping with the principles of international law. He stressed that the two sides should as soon as possible begin negotiations to settle this dispute in keeping with the terms of UN Resolutions 37/9 and 38/12.

The two presidents strongly condemned those systems that are based on strengthening military might and underlined that military spending has seriously affected the unpostponable socioeconomic development goals of Latin America. They agreed to undertake concerted action to halt the military buildup in the region.

They carefully analyzed the Central American situation and pointed out that the current crisis is a major source of concern in our region. The heads of state stressed the need for in-depth solutions that should correct the structural problems that have given rise to the current conflicts.

They underlined the significant role played by the Contadora Group, which has been the Latin American answer to a regional problem. They voiced their concern over the persistent intimidatory practices and destabilizing actions that take place daily in Central America with the goal of imposing a false military solution. They noted that these actions have hindered the work of the Contadora Group, which is trying to work out a diplomatic solution that should be honorable for all the parties involved.

Concerning the world economy, the presidents pointed out that the crisis is still seriously affecting developing countries and agreed that this situation poses a serious threat to world sociopolitical stability. They pointed out that the incipient recovery of some developed countries has not implied an automatic recovery of developing nations and that, therefore, it has not helped to resolve the most serious problems affecting those nations.

They reiterated their support for the actions undertaken by the Group of 77 in the area of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, actions which are an important contribution to the efforts to change the prevailing international economic order.

The presidents underlined the importance of regional cooperation in the energy area, and they agreed that Argentina's contribution to the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and its cooperation program would be highly significant. For his part, Alfonsin revealed that this country is taking steps to join OLADE.

In regard to bilateral relations, the chiefs of state mentioned efforts made to stabilize and reinvigorate their respective economies and expressed their political will to significantly expand bilateral economic cooperation between Argentina and Mexico through the implementation of solidaristic and imaginative measures. In another passage of the declaration, it is noted that the two presidents were gratified by the agreement on counterbalanced trade programs and considered their rapid implementation as being fundamental for the attainment of common commercial objectives.

They also expressed their satisfaction over the signing of an agreement for supplying grains and other agricultural products, and agreed to support efforts toward the substitution of extra-regional imports.

As for economic and technological cooperation, areas of common interest will be pinpointed so that agreements can be signed and a bilateral information system can be established.

Alfonsin and De la Madrid talked about mutual cooperation projects to undertake studies in the areas of oil, ports, food, telecommunications, electronics, computer science, and others, and stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation in the financial area.

It was agreed that the Argentine Central Bank and the Mexican National Foreign Trade Bank should, as soon as possible, establish reciprocal credit lines for as much as $50 million for export financing.

Alfonsin noted the Mexican initiative which permitted Argentina to overcome the difficult position of the Argentine economy's external sector with the participation of Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil. This proved the real meaning of the will to cooperate at the regional level, the declaration expresses.

After stressing the importance of the creation of an investment promotion fund, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction over the agreements that were signed in different fields.

Regarding technological investigation, the two presidents agreed to undertake joint projects, and they also agreed to encourage exchanges in the cultural area in a systematic and imaginative manner.

Finally, the two chiefs of state underscored the need for creating an appropriate model for the development of Latin American countries, a model anchored in the democratic values of equality and social justice for the peoples of the region.

Mexican President Departs

PY051143 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (TELAM) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid left at 0800 [1100 GMT] this morning from the military zone of the metropolitan airport for Caracas, Venezuela, after a 3-day visit to Argentina. The Mexican president was seen off by President Raul Alfonsin, members of his cabinet, Apostolic Nuncio Ubaldo Calabresi, Chamber of Deputies President Juan Carlos Pugliese, and Buenos Aires Mayor Julio Cesar Saguier.

Miguel de la Madrid will meet with Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi to discuss various matters such as the Central American situation, petroleum, and the Latin American foreign debt.

MIR OUTLINES PROPOSAL FOR RETURN TO GOVERNMENT

PY050345 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] today conveyed to President Hernan Siles Zuazo a proposal to reassemble the UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] and a program for government action that will be in keeping with the people's will and the legitimate constitutional status the UDP achieved at the polls. The proposals were conveyed to President Siles Zuazo in a letter delivered by members of the MIR executive board in the course of a meeting held this afternoon at Government House, following instructions issued during a 2-day meeting of MIR leaders in La Paz. In this 6-page letter, the MIR stated that the national crisis must be dealt with through an honest and effective government program implemented through mechanisms capable of guaranteeing information and participation of the Bolivian people.

The MIR leadership proposed that the democratic process be defended at the international level and that all sectors of the nation make joint efforts to bring about national recovery. As to the emergency economic policy of the constitutional government, the MIR indicated that the escalation clause must be maintained and the most impoverished sectors must be assured access to basic consumers goods. It also emphasized that the policy of sudden withdrawal of subsidies must be ruled out, that a strong battle must be waged against speculation and hoarding, and the ability of the state to improve the supply of foodstuffs to the population must be increased.

The MIR feels that the main financial objectives should be the granting of preferential development lines of credit to small- and medium-sized farmers and of financial support aimed at providing the agricultural sector with adequate transportation for its produce as well as the establishment of preferential exchange rates for importing agricultural supplies. Among other MIR prerequisites for returning to the government is state control and punishment of speculators with the exchange rate, the strengthening and improvement of state control over financial organizations, and the establishment of ceilings for payments of the foreign debt. The MIR claimed that it would be appropriate to establish guidelines for handling private foreign debts and advocated reinstating public control over the allotment of foreign currency by building up and reactivating national and regional committees for exchange policy. In its letter, the MIR indicated that it is willing to accept the proposal the president made on Saturday, provided that one of the four ministries offered should belong to the political area, another to the economic, financial, or planning areas, another to the social area, and the last one could be either economic or social. After delivering the letter, Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora said that President Siles Zuazo told the MIR leaders that he would give them his answer soon, and estimated that this meant Thursday, although he did not specify the time.

One of the top members of the MIR executive board said that with these new guidelines for government organization and action which the MIR had proposed, its prospects for returning to the executive branch and the UDP had improved. Antonio Araniva, who was charged with explaining the various items of the letter delivered to the chief executive, stressed that the government must be primarily made up of UDP members, ruling out persons who are against the principles upheld by this political coalition.

NEW ECONOMY MINISTER COLLADO ADDRESSES NATION

PY060308 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0131 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Address to the nation by Economy Minister Modesto Collado; place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] On instructions from his excellency the president of the republic, Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, I have the honor of addressing the nation to briefly outline in simple terms the foundations and the guidelines that I will follow in the fulfillment of the coordinating mission which his excellency has entrusted to me, in my capacity as minister of economy, development, and reconstruction.

As is well known by the people, the economic policy of the government is based on the principles of the so-called social market economy. Since all the principles upon which this doctrine is based will continue to be applied, it will be advantageous to outline their foundations, so that both the government and the people may be clearly aware of the general framework within which the country's economic life has developed.

We will first refer to the market economy principles. In general terms, these principles are:

A. Respect for the right of ownership, which is clearly established in our Constitution, which also takes into account the possible limitations that could arise in connection with its social role. We are referring to the right of ownership which has been regulated in keeping with constitutional principles.

B. Freedom to choose one's own professional activity. This principle is based on the belief that private initiative is the most legitimate and efficient source of economic activity.

C. Importance of the market as agent for channeling resources. This universally proven principle will be applied in good faith, rather than the arbitrary or discretionary distribution of allocations. However, in some cases in which the market is imperfect, procedures will be applied to either stimulate or replace it. This is the case in the works or projects built by the state, for which the most strict methods of control of offers, auctions, and public biddings will be applied.

D. Subsidiary role of the state in those functions that fall outside its own areas of action. This principle will also be applied with prudence, avoiding exaggerations that may be harmful for the common good or that may jeopardize the security of the country.

Such are the essential principles of a market economy. But if the economy is to also serve a social purpose, it must favor the common good and the progress of society, avoiding any kind of damage to either one. The people, the community, and the state must work for the common good, the final responsibility being in the hands of the state.

Now, this set of principles may be used as the basis for a large variety of policies. The government must choose a very specific policy for a determined period and apply it with perseverance and determination. To be successful, an economic policy must be approved by the people; otherwise, it would be impossible to implement.

Most of the major lines of our policy have been marked by some existing situations which are truly negative and which are fixed and unavoidable parameters that we Chileans cannot change. They are principally the high foreign and internal debt; international recession, which has resulted in a poor demand for our export products and in a price slump; and the skyrocketing interest rates in the world market. No doubt, these are the main obstacles which the Chilean economy is facing at this point. The first of them, the foreign debt and the domestic debts of corporations and individuals, will require utmost efforts from Finance Minister Luis Escobar Cerda, who has already decisively plunged into this task on which he will soon report to the nation.

However, I would like to make a few statements on this subject. As far as the foreign debt is concerned, I want to make it clear that Chile will fulfill all its commitments as usual. The renegotiation of the foreign debt and the quest for new funds are being conducted in keeping with the terms of reference of an agreement with the IMF whose approval is in its final stages, an agreement which will undoubtedly be favorable for the development of our economic policy. I should point out that as a result of this agreement, there will be no changes to the exchange policy or restrictions on foreign trade.

Just as President Augusto Pinochet announced, the supreme government wants to end as soon as possible the situation the financial system is facing due to the intervention of several of its institutions. The solution will be sought from a practical viewpoint because each bank and financial organization is a unique case. Obviously, the government's main concern will be the interests of the nation as a whole.

Within this framework, what is needed is a policy of economic reactivation. Fortunately, this reactivation has been under way for some months now as has been proven by certain statistics. One such example, which is by no means isolated, is the field of construction which I know well enough, having been housing and urban affairs minister only a short time ago. In this area, the number of workers who pay in their contribution to social security went up 64 percent from August 1983 to January 1984, that is, in just 5 months. In this specific field, the only thing that must be done is to go on with the programs outlined in order to obtain from them the share which they must contribute to reactivation.

This economic takeoff would have not been possible without the reorganization that former Finance Minster Carlos Caceres conducted for 1 year beginning March 1983 and the support that former Minister Andres Passicot extended to this task since August last year.

The efforts to reactivate the economy can only attain success if we make the increase of productive and useful employment our principal goal. This increase in employment is tied to investments which can come from three sources: domestic savings, which we Chileans must increase significantly; foreign loans, which we will be given when our economic situation stabilizes; and foreign investments. It is obvious that the latter two sources of funds are tied to the domestic savings effort. In order to convince Chileans of the need to save and work, we must submit for their consideration some concrete projects, some of which are already under way and have been announced by his excellency the president of the nation in his 11 March speech.

With regard to the construction field, there are projects for investments in the three sections into which this field is divided: public works, housing, and productive infrastructure, such as the large mines, the National Smelting Enterprise [ENAF], National Electric Power Inc [ENDESA], and so forth.

Public works are being carried out in keeping with a clearly established list of priorities, they are financed to a large extent by foreign loans, and their development is orderly and efficient. Social housing programs are being implemented according to a 3-year plan which is being fulfilled with a very high yield per investment made. This plan is financed by a proper combination of public investment, foreign loans, and personal savings. The infrastructural projects being implemented by the Copper Corporation, ENDESA, ENAF, and other large concerns are highly significant because of the number of jobs they generate and the profits they reap.

The agricultural field, together with construction, is another productive sector that is being noticeably activated through concrete programs that range from opening sugar beet mills, adopting protective measures for milk producers, supporting vegetable and fruit exporters, granting subsidies for forestation programs, creating centers that will be able to purchase grains and other agricultural products, and taking measures that will encourage the production of wheat and oleaginous seeds, which will be disclosed by the agriculture minister in the next few days.

Therefore, from the chronological point of view, we can see that the construction and agricultural sectors, because they demand a great deal of labor and because they have fast development processess, will be the first two motors of the reactivation of our economy. In addition to these sectors, we will immediately set into motion other important ones such as the fishing industry, agroindustry, commerce, transport sectors, as well as the mining sector, which is the most solid and important source of resources the country has. We will immediately implement a 3-year program or the entire productive sector that will be reviewed annually. That is, there will be a program for 1984-86, and once the 1st year is over we will draw up another program for 1985-87 in keeping with the experience gained during the 1st year and the changes that the important economic parameters have suffered. This program will be drawn up with representatives of the private sector and should be ready in a month's time. Those who are in charge of drawing up the program will be requested to take the following four points into account: that the project be highly profitable; that it generate an important number of jobs; that it will be able to control any inflationary effect it might have; and that it will not generate any further bureaucracy. The purpose of this program is to have an operative tool which will finally allow the materialization of works or investments. It will be the responsibility of those who work under me to see that this happens.

Before concluding, I want to emphatically state that we consider inflation a very serious detriment to society and that all government organizations must bear this in mind.

With the same emphasis, we want to point out that we are against any statist tendency in the management of economic policy.

With this spirit we undertake this task, without theorizing, aware of the difficulties that lie ahead of us, but full of great faith in Chile's future.

Thank you very much.

CANADA'S MACEACHEN ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA052322 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Bogota -- Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan Joseph MacEachen, today begins a 3-day official visit to Colombia. During his visit he will meet with the public and private sectors to strengthen relations between the two countries. Tomorrow at 1100 the Canadian deputy prime minister will meet with Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo to continue the dialogue on foreign policy which began a few weeks ago in Canada.

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs MacEachen arrives today at 1700 and will be met at the El Dorado International Airport by Foreign Minister Lloreda Caicedo. MacEachen's trip to Colombia is part of his Central American tour that began on Tuesday when he arrived in Costa Rica. Following his visit to Colombia, MacEachen will visit Nicaragua and Honduras.

The object of MacEachen's tour is to learn about the Central American situation and the efforts being made by the Contadora Group. On Friday morning the deputy prime minister will visit the Oro Museum, at 1100 he will meet with President Betancur, and at noon he will hold a working luncheon with Foreign Minister Lloreda Caicedo at San Carlos Palace. Later that day he will travel to Cartagena, where he will remain until Sunday, when he will leave for Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT SPENDING REDUCTION -- In an effort to check the fiscal deficit, President Belisario Betancur has ordered a 10-percent reduction in government spending at all levels. The measure is part of an extensive program of fiscal austerity in response to the critical lack of funds in the nation's treasury. According to the Treasury Ministry, the situation is difficult but manageable. [Summary] [Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 30 Mar 84 PA]

PRC DELEGATION ARRIVES FROM BRAZIL FOR VISIT

PY051612 Paris AFP in Spanish 1224 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (AFP) -- A PRC delegation headed by Liao Hansheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, arrived early this morning in Lima at the invitation of the Peruvian Congress for a 1-week visit.

The delegation, which is made up of 13 members, includes Mrs Lin Liyun, vice president of the All-China Women's Federation.

In a brief statement to the press, Liao Hansheng said that it is time to effectively strengthen commercial and cultural ties because the axis of activity is shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It is imperative that the countries in the Pacific strengthen their ties.

The PRC delegation, which has just paid a visit to Brazil, was met by some 20 senators and deputies.

Sandro Mariategui, who is presiding over the Commission of Foreign Affairs at the Congress, welcomed the visitors and stressed that the fact that our being more Asiatic than Western cannot be overlooked.

Liao Hansheng said that his country is interested in its ties with Peru, which is a country with a sizable copper and iron production.

Regarding the PRC, it can offer manufactured goods and above all, its technology.

ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST MAYORS DENOUNCED

PY060026 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Mar 84 p 22

[Editorial: "Municipalities and Red Penetration"]

[Excerpts] The duties and rights of municipal mayors freely elected thanks to President Belaunde, are clearly set forth in the Constitution. In sum, the local government, that is, the municipality, is an organization designed to serve the needs of the community over which the central government has no jurisdiction.

The municipalities of Lima counties controlled by the communists which joined the latest strike have ruled that the municipal workers who did not work following direct orders or hints of their mayors, will not lose their wages which should have been discounted for the days they missed. Thus, the communist municipalities are using the money of the taxpayers to reward, not services to the community but to the political strike which they promoted and helped on Thursday. It may be subject to discussion, but nevertheless, it should be investigated whether or not this could be interpreted as mismanagement of funds. In any case, the citizenry and especially the taxpayers must take this attitude into account.

The taxpayer expects the municipality to render services in exchange for his money. He does not pay so that his money can be spent on the communist agitation campaign in Peru.

However, although the behavior of the mayors of Lima counties and other places throughout the country is very serious, it is nowhere near the extremes to which the eight mayors of Cusco Department, have gone. Last Tuesday EL DIARIO, mouthpiece for Soviet penetration in Peru, published an unusual "Strike Decree" issued by the communist mayors of Cusco Department. In this the mayors "ordered" total paralyzation of activities in this department on 22 March threatening those who did not comply with punishment. The "decree" itself would be laughable if it were not for the fact that it clearly shows communist intentions as far as Peru is concerned. This decree violated the Constitution, the laws and even common sense by making Estrada and his colleagues into a kind of substitute for the constitutional government in an area which would thus become "liberated territory" in the best communist usage. It is obvious that the "decree" is null and void, that it must not nor can be complied with. On the contrary, it calls for the intervetnion of the office of the state prosecutor to defend the interests and rights of the citizenry of Cusco Department.

The communist municipalities did not wait too long to show their claws and it is better this way. Now Peru is aware and should start getting ready to defend itself. A zealous and permanent surveillance of their behavior must be the first step taken. Other battles lie ahead. If the communist municipalities insist on serving the extremist cause rather than the community thus causing a severe schism among the Peruvian people, the citizenry and the taxpayers will have to act in their own, legitimate defense.

The communist penetration has gone too far in Peru. The Peruvian people have a duty to stop it.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 48-HOUR VISIT

PA051944 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1934 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid arrived in Venezuela a few moments ago for a 48-hour visit. De la Madrid is accompanied by an official nine-member delegation headed by Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor. The Mexican president was welcomed by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul at the Simon Bolivar International Airport.

Addresses Congress

PA060317 Paris AFP in Spanish 0122 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Caracas, 5 Apr (AFP) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today said in Caracas that "peace is the patrimony of mankind. Let us not leave it in the hands of those who endanger it to justify their strategic defense."

De la Madrid addressed the Venezuelan Congress regarding the "specter of an arms buildup that arises in almost every corner of the planet, advocated by the complicities [complicidades] of hegemonic interests and the critical ideological struggle between powers."

He said that the sequel of a confrontation "has always followed the same scheme, which goes from a bilateral conflict of interests to the regionalization of confrontations and the universalization of war."

He said: "As pathetic symbols of our times, we see the Mideast drama, the war between Iran and Iraq, the invasion of Afghanistan, the division of Cyprus, the segregation of South Africa, and the intervention in Grenada."

"In the basin surrounded by Venezuela and Mexico we have the political fragility and economic and social backwardness of our Central American brothers as an urgent call to our Bolivarian conscience."

He added that "the outstanding characteristics of the world situation" are "the constant violations of international norms, the lack of willingness to reactivate an understanding among nations, and the lack of support for international organizations."

"We must add to this the axis that makes them turn and attracts them to its core: the specter of a nuclear war," he warned.

The Mexican president said that "we are actually between the end of one war and the beginning of another," and that "is the essential content of the global crisis that afflicts us." He said that "the strong are not strong enough to resist the temptations of a war."

He then discussed the main reason for his trip to Venezuela: Central America. He said: "Violence is present there. It is increasing and putting to a test the solidarity of all Latin American peoples."

He discussed the economic crisis and the "feeling of isolation with which some of the area's countries face their political and economic choices," labeling it a "gloomy picture." He urged the countries in the area to "strengthen ALADI and SELA, giving them the power to redefine development strategies." He said, "Let us bear in mind that every organization functions according to the political successes or mistakes of its members."

He said that the crisis "is also an opportunity to reflect and seek alternatives" aimed at a change in the interdependence and communications between underdeveloped and industrialized countries of the continent.

He stressed that "strengthening our democratic life and eliminating economic and social imbalances where there is oppression, poverty, and fear are tasks aimed at securing America's future."

DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS SPAIN FOR ARMS TALKS

For Madrid reportage on National Defense Minister General Alcale Alvarez' visit to Spain to discuss technical cooperation on weapons, including his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 5 April Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BRIEFS

BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION -- A group of businessmen and financiers who supported President Jaime Lusinchi's presidential campaign have been organized into the Association of Independent Businessmen and Financiers [Asociacion de Empresarios y Financieros Independientes -- EFEIN]. The association will reportedly carry out studies and activities of a social, political, and cultural nature. It will also carry out research in economics and education and seek a solution to national problems by applying the principles of social democracy. Francisco Zubillaga will be national coordinator. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Mar 84 pp 1, 21 PA]

AMBASSADORS TO U.S., OAS -- The Venezuelan Senate Foreign Policy Committee has approved the request made by the Foreign Ministry to appoint Valetin Hernandez Acosta and Edilberto Moreno ambassadors to the United States and the OAS, respectively. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 1, 12 PA]

NEW NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR -- On 20 March Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi received the credentials of Anton Smith Meyer, new Norwegian ambassador to Venezuela. The ceremony, held at the Presidential Palace, was also attended by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 1, 12 PA]

DIAZ HERRERA ON DEFENSE FORCES ROLE IN CAMPAIGN

PA052153 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Excerpts] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Vice President Carlos Ozores, several cabinet ministers, the attorney general of the republic, and directors of independent and semi-independent agencies today went on an extensive tour of the San Miguelito Special District. Gen Noriega was accompanied at all times by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of General Staff [of the National Defense Forces]; other senior National Defense Forces officers on active service; and reserve officers.

At a mass event in Santa Marta, the residents submitted several requests to the visiting authorities. Vice President Ozores and Col Diaz Herrera addressed the crowd.

[Begin Diaz Herrera recording] Distinguished community of Santa Marta, San Miguelito Special District, and neighboring areas:

This is just a brief message on the occasion of a significant event at which we share your problems in spirit. I wish to ask teacher Guillermina [not further identified] and the rest of you: When some spontaneous enemies of the Defense Forces suggest that we stay away from these communities, lock ourselves up in the garrisons, and not address these problems on grounds that this means engaging in politics -- I ask you: Since his arrival here a year ago, has Colonel Macias [military zone commander] asked you, teacher Guillermina, for your votes? [crowd answers "no"; applause, shouts]

All we do in these circumstances is put into practice the teachings of General Torrijos, who helped poor communities very much. He said: Don't stay in the garrisons. Even though we always have people carrying out our plans and our defense and training programs, go out and shake the people's hands so you will be different from armed forces in other countries, where the people don't know them. [applause]

Nobody can tell us to stay in the garrisons unless you do, so I ask you: Do you want us to lock ourselves up in the garrisons, or do you want to see us? [crowd answers "no"] [applause]

So we have been engaging in politics for a long time, when no elections were in sight. And I ask. [as heard] We have been engaged in a marathon campaign for a long time, when there were no posters or anything. There are indeed posters now! People who have never been here or in any other underprivileged community will visit you and the choice will depend on you. We are not suggesting anything. However, look well. Any party can have a good candidate, but he must have identified himself with your problems. [applause]

I wish to conclude by stating that the National Defense Forces will abide by the Constitution and above all by the voice of the people, which is the voice of God. You will say whether you wish to go on working with us or whether you wish us to withdraw and not see you again. What do you want? [Words indistinct]

Then we will go on with you. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

COSTA RICA

HONDURAS' GENERAL ALVAREZ DEPARTS FOR MIAMI

PA051507 Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 5 Apr (AFP) -- General Gustavo Alvarez, former chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, left Costa Rica today and traveled to Miami in the United States, official sources have reported. A spokesman for the Security Ministry said that the military man -- deposed last Saturday -- left the country "on his own volition, after the attorney general's office repealed an order preventing his departure. The order had been requested by relatives of three Costa Ricans who disappeared in Honduras last year. Alvarez -- who denies that he resigned from his post despite official reports in Tegucigalpa in this regard -- left this morning on a regular flight of the national airline LACSA [Lineas Aereas Costarricenses].

CANADIAN DEPUTY PREMIER MACEACHEN MAKES VISIT

Meets With Gutierrez

PA052040 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan Joseph MacEachen has shown interest in the position taken by each Central American country on the Contadora Group's efforts for the region. At meetings with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and later with President Luis Alberto Monge, the Canadian official asked for details of the progress of the process and each country's contribution to solving the regional conflict.

MacEachen met for about 2 hours with Gutierrez and discussed some aspects of bilateral relations. Although MacEachen reiterated that his country will help Costa Rica's development programs beyond the $15 million already granted, the amount will be agreed on tomorrow. Today, technicians in the two countries' delegations discussed various plans and feasibility studies to determine which plans would be financed. The additional amount to be granted by Canada will be determined by the time a joint declaration is signed tomorrow afternoon.

During the lunch that President Monge gave for the Canadian official, MacEachen reported on the causes of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's resignation. In addition, MacEachen outlined his country's policy during the time [words indistinct] left vacant by Trudeau, and stressed that he does not want the post. MacEachen said a new prime minister will be chosen in the next few days. For this reason, Canadian policy will not be substantially affected.

Comments on Nicaragua

FL060050 Montreal Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Canada's Minister for External Affairs Allan MacEachen has ended the first leg of a four-nation tour of Latin America. During a news conference in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, Mr MacEachen pledged support for the efforts toward peace by the Contadora Group, and he had some stern words for Nicaragua.

Martha (Honey) reports from San Jose. Speaking at the conclusion of his 3-day visit here, Mr MacEachen said that he is impressed with Costa Rica's peaceful, democratic traditions, and that Canada plans to increase its aid to this country, but he had critical remarks for the leftist Sandinista government in neighboring Nicaragua. He said: Although Canada had recently extended a $13-million line of credit to Nicaragua, no increased assistance is now contemplated. Canada, he said, is not happy with some of Nicaragua's policies.

[Begin MacEachen recording] We would be more agreeable to increasing our aid if the developments in Nicaragua were in the direction of those originally espoused by the Sandinista leaders. [end recording]

Mr MacEachen said categorically that Canada has no plans to open an embassy in Nicaragua. At present the Canadian Embassy here in San Jose is also accredited to Managua and this arrangement will continue. Mr MacEachen said Canada also disagrees with some of the U.S. policies in Central America, especially in El Salvador, and that Canada firmly supports the Contadora Group's efforts to bring negotiated settlements to the region's various conflicts. Mr MacEachen goes on to Colombia and, from there, he will visit Honduras and Nicaragua.

FAIT ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RESIGN, SEEK PRESIDENCY

PA042020 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Mar 84 p 2 A

[Excerpt] First Vice President Alberto Fait Lizano yesterday held a press conference and announced that he will present his resignation as of the 2d week in May, when he will dedicate his time to political activities with the intention of running for president for the National Liberation Party, PLN.

Fait Lizano yesterday said he had met with President Luis Alberto Monge to discuss the matter, and they agreed that he will present his resignation on 10-12 May, waiting until the president completes his 2d year in power. "I would have preferred to stay until the conclusion of this administration, but I have accepted the request made by many people, who want my name to lead the PLN ticket for February 1986," the vice president said.

EL SALVADOR

BRAZ COMMANDER KILLED IN CLASH AT SESORI

PA051636 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Report from San Miguel by correspondent Jorge Guadalupe Sorto]

[Text] Here is an up to the minute report. The San Miguel Brigade has reported that at 2000 last night a patrol from the Cuscatlan Battalion, headed by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, ambushed guerrillas who were fleeing from Ciudad Barrios to the area of Villa El Triunfo. The clash lasted a little over 30 minutes. A leading guerrilla commander who belonged to the General Staff of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, BRAZ, died in the clash, along with eight of his companeros. The Salvadoran Army believes that the commander was a foreigner, because documents found on him bore references to the place known as Monimbo in Nicaragua.

The commander was also carrying notes that were to have been sent in the next few hours to Commander Ortega Saavedra, chief of the FSLN's Sandinist government, and documents pertaining to Carlos Fonseca Amador, the late leader of the Sandinist revolution, were found in the pockets of his camouflage fatigues.

The body of the guerrilla commander is still at Llano de Perez, 2 km from Sesori, San Miguel Department. He was a heavy-set individual with coarse black hair and a moustache, and was over 30 years of age. The black beret that he wore bears an old red star and is being shown at this very minute to newsmen and correspondents at brigade headquarters in San Miguel.

The BRAZ commander was also wearing a harness of the type used by the Nicaraguan commanders. The bodies will be taken to the square in Sesori for indentification, particularly that of the guerrilla commander who died last night in a clash with a patrol from the 3d Brigade under the command of Col Domingo Monterrosa.

COPREFA TERMS SAN MIGUEL OPERATION SUCCESSFUL

PA060405 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1745 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Press Bulletin released by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador on 5 April]

[Text] A total of 19 terrorists were killed and at least 15 others wounded yesterday at noon during a flash operation carried out in Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango Department, by the (Tasumal) counterinsurgency battalion, which is part of the 2d Infantry Brigade. Two M-79 grenade launchers, four M-16 rifles, two G-3 rifles, a large quantity of munitions, and other supplies were seized during the action. The operation succeeded in dislodging a group of terrorist that had taken up positions along the San Miguel-Santa Ana border, posing a threat to Santa Ana Department.

The heaviest clash developed in the hamlet of Chilin, Potrero Sula, jurisdiction of Neuva Concepcion. Two civilians who were unfortunately wounded in the action were transferred to an aid center by the Air Force. The Armed Forces reported one wounded. Meanwhile, 2 M-16 rifles, 1 revolver, and 14 citizens-band radios have been confiscated in the course of the military operations that are being conducted on the Guazapa Volcano.

GOVERNMENT REBELS REPORT CIUDAD BARRIOS CLASH

Army: Rebels 'Cornered'

PA042031 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Report by the Press Committee of the Armed Forces, COPREFA, in San Salvador -- live]

[Text] This is an up to the minute report prepared by COPREFA. The Cuscatlan Battalion has cornered terrorist bands of the FMLN. In a successful operation against terrorist squadrons who tried to escape following their military failure in the attack on Ciudad Barrios, in the northern region of the eastern Department of San Miguel, the Cuscatlan Battalion inflicted many casualties on the self-styled Arce Zablah Brigade as it fled in disarray near the town of Sesori, southwest of Ciudad Barrios. The troops captured a terrorist fighter and seized one M-60 machine gun, two G-3 rifles, two AR-15 rifles; two M-16's; two FAL rifles, and much ammunition.

The fighting in northern San Miguel Department has represented a serious blow to the extremists, since they have suffered many casualites. The paratroopers of the Airborne Battalion who fought heroically in Ciudad Barrios suffered 5 dead and 25 wounded.

Military units are operating in the area right now searching for the extremists. The final results of this operation will be announced through this radio station later.

FMLN: Paratroopers' 'Dislodged'

PA050407 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] We have been informed that the northern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade has fulfilled all its objectives against the special units in northern San Miguel Department. Last Monday our forces dislodged the entire Paratroopers Battalion from its positions 5 km from Ciudad Barrios, forcing the battalion to flee in disarray in the direction of Ciudad Barrios, where our revolutionary units cornered them and inflicted a total of 70 casualties [passage indistinct] withdraw in order.

We repeat: Our forces of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, after staging this hard blow against the Paratroopers Brigade and dislodging them from their positions 5 km from Ciudad Barrios, forced the battalion to flee in disarray in the direction of Ciudad Barrios, where they were surrounded by our forces, which inflicted 70 casualties, including 22 dead and 48 wounded on the enemy battalion.

After the objective of eroding this special unit of the dictatorship was fulfilled, our units withdrew in an orderly fashion.

PRTC CLAIMS MURDER OF JOURNALIST HASBUN

PA041400 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 84 pp 2, 30

[Excerpt] This newspaper yesterday received a communique released by the self-styled Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, PRTC, of El Salvador claiming responsibility for the murder of Dr Rafael Hasbun.

According to the communique, the murder was committed at 1740 on Saturday, 31 March 1984, "by an urban armed commando of our popular liberation guerrillas" in what they described as "revolutionary action: death to political harborers of the death squads."

Similarly, the PRTC has claimed responsibility for the murder of Francisco Ferri, a member of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA Political Committee, and Bobby Jimenez, a union leader and also a member of ARENA.

The communique also mentioned a column published in a local paper, saying that the column's ideas on the anniversary of Msgr Romero's death are "irresponsible" in form and content. According to the PRTC, "yesterday, as today and always, Msgr Romero occupied a very special palce in our hearts."

While demanding an investigation of and punishment for those responsible for Msgr Romero's death, the PRTC has asserted that the column "responds to clearly indentifiable class and political interests" and described the column's writer as a "salaried pen-pusher" at the service of those interests.

FARABUNDO MARTI CRITICIZES SHLAUDEMAN'S VISIT

PA041820 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Harry Shlaudeman, Ronald Reagan's special ambassador to Central America, today arrived in our country to try to consummate the pact between Duarte and D'Aubuisson, to bless the bloody union of these two criminals. Harry Shlaudeman, who was a member of the ominous Kissinger commission, is one of those who have been recommending an increase in U.S. military aid to the puppet Salvadoran dictatorship. Harry Shlaudeman has arrived with clear-cut instructions to seek a unified position by all the electioneering parties in favor of Reagan's reelection. Harry Shlaudeman is bearing a bogus peace flag while sailing on a gunboat and mining the waters of Central America. This is the peace that Reagan is offering our peoples. Yankee aggressor, get out of El Salvador and Central America!

FMLN CLAIMS DEATH SQUADS THWART U.S. PLANS

PA060156 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The death squads are opening the can of worms [olla de grillos] created by the imperialist government of Ronald Reagan. The party of the oligarchy has begun the electoral campaign for the run-off elections. The reactionary productive alliance has stepped out on the platform -- the alliance of the exploiters and their armed branch, the Secret Anticommunist Army -- to threaten the presidential candidate of imperialism, the traitorous and servile [words indistinct]. The oligarchy and ranking fascist officers of the Army do not want Duarte as president, but the Yankee government is forcing them to accept that worn-out figure of the electoral market. However, the virulence of those reactionary sectors is opening that U.S.-created can of worms [words indistinct].

But the death threats have been made not only against the servile puppet Duarte, but also against the doors of the church [passage indistinct] of the oligarchy and its officers of the genocidal Army. The oligarchs are warning, are threatening that they want a larger slice of power in the next administration, with or without electoral registry, with or without elections, with or without a coup d'etat. The voraciousness of the oligarchy is making it difficult for the Yankee plans to impose on El Salvador a democratic-faced government that will continue to sell national sovereignty, while increasing the genocide and hunger of our heroic working people. Our people do not want pacts. Our people do not want elections.

FMLN COMMENTS ON GORMAN VISIT TO HONDURAS

PA060310 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] The commander of the U.S. Southern Command is visiting Honduras. General Paul Gorman has arrived in Tegucigalpa to meet with Honduran Government officials. In a statement to the press Gorman said that the United States wishes to professionalize the Honduran Army. As is known, Gen Paul Gorman was the Reagan administration's contact with General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez in the development of its aggressive plans against the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador as well as in the implementation of a repressive policy within Honduras. This policy has resulted in more than 100 disappearances, the use of torture, and the murder of dozens of Hondurans. With Paul Gorman's advice and that of the Central Intelligence Agency, Gen Alvarez Martinez turned the Department of National Investigation, DIN, into one of his instruments to repress the Honduran people.

FMLN REPORTS STRIKE BY CCE EMPLOYEES, OTHERS

PA052015 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The Central Electoral Council [CCE] workers began an indefinite strike on 4 April to demand payment of their wages [passage indistinct] workers of the CCE when the gentlemen of the CCE reported that the work was over. The workers demanded that CCE member Vasquez Arceo keep his word as an evangelist and that their wages be paid.

The 320 CCE workers are joining a strike begun 2 weeks ago by more than 35,000 workers of the Public Works Ministry, the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, and the institute [passage indistinct] which includes almost all the teachers of the country, announced that on 5 April they will begin a strike to demand an increase in wages.

Spokesmen for ANDES [National Association of Salvadoran Teachers] charged that the education minister does not want to meet with them, and they demanded that a meeting be held on Thursday. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 workers will go on strike to demand a 40-percent wage increase.

Municipal workers in the city of Santa Ana have charged that they are being threatened by their superiors, who are forcing them to sign lists so that they will stop making wage demands. The workers have demanded a wage increase and other benefits. These demands have been answered with threats from the mayor and other municipal officials who are members of the extreme rightist ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party of Roberto D'Aubuisson, relentless enemies of the workers.

GUATEMALA

SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA052335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2121 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena met here this afternoon with General Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade. During his surprise visit, Chavez Mena discussed general bilateral topics with Mejia Victores and Andrade.

After their meeting with Mejia Victores, Chavez Mena and Andrade held a brief press conference, in which they explained the reasons for the meeting. Chavez Mena said: "I spoke with the chief of state regarding the Salvadoran political process and the work carried out by the Contadora Group commissions."

Referring to Harry Shlaudeman's current visit to Central America, Chavez Mena said: "He has a pretty good idea of the area's problems." Chavez Mena dismissed the possibility of a coup d'etat in El Salvador. He said that the 25 March presidential elections "prove that the Salvadoran people do not support the guerrilla groups. Chavez Mena denied that Central American presidents had been convoked to a meeting in Washington. He said: "I have not heard anything about that. However, an invitation will be issued in the United States soon for a forum on Central American problems. Some foreign ministers and U.S. representatives and congressman will participate in that forum."

REFUGEES IN ECUADORAN EMBASSY LEAVE FOR QUITO

PA041940 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The eight Guatemalans who had sought asylum at the Ecuadoran ambassador's home in this capital yesterday left on a Panamanian COPA [Compania Panamena de Aviacion] flight. The eight refugees, who belong to two families, had requested asylum at the Ecuadoran Embassy on Friday, 23 March, and they were later transferred to the residence of Ecuadoran Ambassador Cesar Roman Gonzalez, where they remained for more than a week, until yesterday, Saturday. During the course of the week, the safe-conducts that would allow the eight refugees to leave the country were processed. The refugees said that they had been persecuted and threatened by as-yet-unidentified persons. The COPA airplane was to take them to Panama yesterday, and from Panama they would be immediately transferred to Quito, Ecuador.

Ambassador Roman Gonzalez, who personally processed the safe-conducts for the refugees, yesterday received the news of his mother's death in Ecuador almost simultaneously with the group's departure. He asked reporters to excuse his not making any statements. Head of State Oscar Mejia Victores said that none of the eight persons who sought refuge at the Ecuadoran Embassy had been subjected to persecution by government security forces.

PONCE MORALES TRANSFERRED TO AREA OF CONFLICT

PA050119 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by Eduardo Sam Aldana]

[Text] Mazatenango, Coban -- Colonel Otto Erick Ponce Morales, commander of Military Zone No 21, headquartered in Coban, has been transferred to Military Zone No 13, headquartered in Mazatenango, the capital city of Suchitepequez Department -- the site of recent clashes between Army troops and guerrillas.

Col Ponce Morales was in Alta Verapaz Department for more than a year and was able to bring peace to the region, which had been frequently harassed by the guerrillas. Recently the Army, which controls Suchitepequez Depatment and is coordinating actions in the Solola area, carried out an operation in Chicacao and San Miguel Panan to find the perpetrators of an ambush staged some days ago in which 11 members of the Army were killed.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT SUAZO MEETS WITH GEN PAUL GORMAN

PA051929 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] General Paul Gorman, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, has said that his country is not interested in installing a military base in Honduras and that it just wants to help the Armed Forces in their professionalization and the programs they are carrying out. He said this after meeting with President Roberto Suazo Cordova and Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes, the new commander of the Armed Forces who was elected by the Honduran Congress.

I have found here a president who is very confident. He is a very relaxed person who is carrying out his constitutional functions extremely well, Gorman said to a crowd of national and foreign journalists who interviewed him as he left the presidential office.

The visitor and the Honduran president discussed topics related to the military aid that the United States has given Honduras in the past 11 months. Gorman added that President Suazo Cordova told him that what occurred in the Armed Forces is an internal matter and that programs and policies will continue as planned.

President Suazo Cordova said that Gen Gorman's presence strengthens democracy and that it was a great pleasure to receive his visit.

U.S. Ambassador to Honduras John Dimitri Negroponte also participated in the meeting.

LOPEZ REYES SWORN IN AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF

PA051702 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1643 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Oath of office administered by Jose Efrain Bu Giron, president of the Honduran Congress, to General Walter Lopez Reyes, new commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, at the National Congress -- live]

[Text] [Bu Giron] Citizen General Walter Lopez Reyes, elected commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, do you pledge to be faithful to the republic, to fulfill and ensure fulfillment of the Constitution and the laws?

[Lopez Reyes] On my behalf and that of the Armed Forces, I solemnly vow to be faithful to the republic, to fulfill and ensure fulfillment of the Constitution and the laws.

[Bu Giron] You are now in possession of your post.

Comments on Appointment

PA052014 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Excerpts] At approximately 1600 today, Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes was presented the decree that declares him the new chief of the Honduran Armed Forces.

[Begin Lopez recording] We are aware of the responsibilities. We will do everything possible to succeed, especially to defend the Constitution, so that Honduran dignity and integrity will be respected. This, incidentally, is the result of the legacy of the greatest heroes of this country, who with ideals and great effort tried to give this beautiful republic, which has suffered a great deal, a name.

We hope now that the concerted effort of all Hondurans -- especially of men like you, with the Armed Forces as its armed branch -- to succeed in a [word indistinct] manner, in such a way that we will be respected by the world. I thank you, and these words are spoken also on behalf of my comrades in arms. Thank you [end recording]

Message to Nation

PA051914 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1807 GMT 5 Apr 84

["Message to the Nation" by Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes, new commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, from the Conference Room of the Honduran Air Force Officers' Club -- live]

[Text] Messrs members of the international and national social communications media, fellow citizens: The Honduran Armed Forces, in view of its latest internal developments, deems it opportune and considers [1-second break in transmission] and the international community about the principles, laws, duties, and obligations that regulate its operations as a permanent state institution.

The Constitution of the republic establishes that the Armed Forces are a national institution of a permanent nature, essentially professional, apolitical, obedient, and nondeliberative. It establishes its goals clearly and specifically in this manner, and I quote: They are established to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic, to maintain peace [1-second break in transmission] and the alternation in the exercise of the presidency of the republic. End quote. Furthermore, the law of the Armed Forces specifically regulates the administration, functioning, and hierarchy necessary to make effective those objectives within the general framework of the principles established in the Constitution of the republic.

The function of our armed institution does not consist of making attempts against the legally constituted powers, but, on the contrary, to defend our republican, democratic, and representative system of government. We affirm with total conviction that the practice of assuming functions that are constitutionally reserved for others, who are freely elected by the people in the exercise of their sovereign rights, remains in the past as a phase that has been overcome. We reiterate our total subordination to the legal institutionality of the state. Our responsibility is to safeguard its preservation and consolidation. Those principles are unquestionable for us, both because they have the category of an established norm and because they respond to the doctrinal basis of a way of life that our peoples have found, discussed, and accepted as the best in their struggle for liberty, order, equality, peace, and progress.

In the same way, we understand that the objectives which the Constitution reserves for the Armed Forces constitute the most noble obligation to the fatherland, but which demand the highest sense of duty and sacrifice. That is why we understand that ours ust be an institution of conditions, qualities, and characteristics that are exceptional, ethical, moral, civic, and professional in order to fulfill such noble but difficult responsibilities.

We want to make it clear that we understand the constitutional principles of being apolitical, professional, and non-deliberative, not as empty expressions or legal routines, but as the most serious principles for generating the normality of a harmonious, peaceful, tranquil, safe, and permanent society.

The officers of the Armed Forces believe in this concept with their own convictions, found in their professional formation, based on the moral, ethical, and civic values that are a guarantee of the actions of a good soldier. We reiterate our position before the Honduran people that the officers and commanders of the Armed Forces believe it is fundamental and necessary to conduct themselves loyally, honestly, and morally and thus project a dignified image of the confidence deposited in them as soliders serving the fatherland, and that this be a source of pride within our borders and of international respect.

The professionalism of those of us who currently comprise our armed institution guarantees that conduct. Therefore, the peoples and the different sector should have faith and confidence in the Armed Forces as their best ally to achieve common goals and to benefit each and every Honduran.

The events to which we have referred, and which drew the citizens' attention, have been within the framework of those principles and concepts that reflect our position as soldiers who are aware of our duties and commitments to the law, within the principle of hierarchy and our respect for the other state institutions and their administrative jurisdictions.

We want to make it clear once and for all that we consider the Armed Forces an institution that forms part of a unitary, constitutional government which, in accordance with the principles of the Constitution of the republic and its powers, abides by the direction and orientation of its hierarchic superiors, committed to enforcing the effectiveness of that Constitution, within the legal framework, but never outside or above it.

We want to be considered in this dimension and perspective, because we are established within that context and will continue, without deviations, to guarantee the permanence of our institution, which is and should continue to be the school where the soldier learns his profession and later exercises it to maintain the integrity and democratic existence of the fatherland. That is also the school where the moral leaders are formed, not merely presumptuous ones who force others to be good. The purposes that have determined our actions should not generate speculation to distort a highly patriotic decision that does credit to the constitutional government and which was made with the president of the republic, under his authority and orientation in his role as a commanding general of the Armed Forces, for the good of the nation and its democratic institution as our borders are being threatened by exotic doctrines, contrary to the character of the Honduran people.

The Honduran people, in their quest for solutions to their great political, social, and economic problems, need men that do not sell themselves and cannot be bought, men who are sincere and honest in their innermost souls, men not afraid to call sin by its proper name, men whose consciences are as loyal to duty as the compass is to the pole, men who support justice though the sky fall. Thank you very much, messrs journalists.

[Unidentified announcer] That was Gen Lopez Reyes' speech to the nation.

[Unidentified reporter] General, is that all?

[Lopez] That is all for now with this speech. Later I will give other timely information to the Honduran people.

[Reporter] Is there a granite unity within the Armed Forces?

[Lopez] Totally.

[Reporter] General, is there any problem at this time when the change has been made?

[Lopez] None at all. We are aware of the problems that our country faces, and consequently we remain united to face any threat that confronts us.

[Reporter] Gen Walter Lopez, will there by any changes; will there be a reshuffle, General?

[Lopez] You asked me...

[Reporter, interrupting] Will there be a reshuffle in the Armed Forces?

[Lopez] I think that perhaps there may be some.

[Reporter] When will they take place?

[Lopez] In the approaching time we have a lot of work, and that is where I am heading now.

[Question indistinct]

[Lopez] Totally.

POLITICIANS, MEDIA DISCUSS ALVAREZ RESIGNATION

Government Strengthened

PA042302 Teguicigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1152 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Station commentary: "Unexpected Changes in the Upper Military Echelon"]

[Text] The changes in the upper military echelon have kept the Honduran people in total expectation due to the unexpected way in which they took place. Uncertainty has gradually begun to fade, however. The president, in his speech Saturday evening, in a very general way, said that the military should not put their hands into politics and the politicians should not put their hands into military affairs. We see this as the clearest reference to the reason behind General Alvarez Martinez' removal.

In any case, the constitutional government has effectively consolidated its power in a most unexpected way. It was a secret to no one inside or outside of Honduras that Gen Alvarez Martinez had very astutely taken on an aura of being the power behind the throne, and this became obvious after the government approved a series of measures out of fear. Never before had Honduras been listed among the countries in which human rights are violated as a matter of course. In an editorial comment last 22 March, we said that it was inconceivable that this government, which was elected by a broad popular majority, could have a long list of missing persons about which the security forces refused to report while they insisted that they had not captured them.

Gen Alvarez Martinez was imprinting an iron doctrine of security within the Army without the government being able to do anything to stop him until Saturday. We understand that many military men reacted to Gen Alvarez Martinez' attitude with discomfort and surprise, and that they realized that an abuse of power had emerged which posed a threat to the country, the Army, and all the people of Honduras.

No one, no matter how aloof, could remain indifferent to the abuse of power that was taking place. The excessive belief in a doctrine of national security, instead of promoting respect and confidence, was causing fear and alarm.

In our opinion, a recent action, the capture of 600 workers of the National Enterprise for Electric Power in order to prevent the union from cutting the supply of electrical power was uncalled for and did tremendous damage to the constitutional government. We said so last week. This action, which joined the voluminous file of violations of fundamental rights, was not intended to maintain tranquillity, but on the contrary to find a way to incite certain sectors to respond with violence.

It appears as if the doctrine of security that obsessed Gen Alvarez Martinez was specifically intended to cause problems to the government. Despite the legitimacy with which the authorities were acting, the way in which people were being treated was not exactly within Honduran law.

In addition to this doctrine of security, there was a mysterious association operating that was made up in a very odd way. It was headed by Gen Alvarez, and its real goals were unknown. It gave the impression of being a corporation to reaffirm and support the actions of paramilitary entities. All these actions had a special tint to them. Finally, the massive arrest of the electrical company's employees was the last straw because, as we see it, the action was not taken in consultation with the highest authorities of the government. The immediate thought that came to mind was that popular discontent was being created in order to set the stage for legitimizing a situation that the Honduran people had already rejected massively at the polls. We believe that by having the Army's support, the position of the government has been considerably strengthened. If this strength is used well it can benefit the country a great deal, but if it is used poorly it can do the country great harm. It is imperative that the government help the Army improve its image by preparing a thorough report on the many people who have disappeared, because it is said that the security forces carried out these actions following the orders of their superiors.

It is urgent that the government restate its foreign policy. The way in which it is being conducted now, Honduras seems a dominated country without any autonomy or independence. The purge at the top of the military command structure must also bring about a purge within the government so as to eliminate some undesirable elements that damage its image. The well being of the Honduran nation demands that this be done. Meanwhile, the Honduran people have received the change well, particularly because this scheme to legitimate a dictatorship that would have had fatal consequences was nipped in the bud.

Lessons of Incident

PA032340 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Statement by Alfredo Landaverde, president of the Honduran Christian Democratic Party; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] I would like to say that we can learn a lesson from what happened. The lesson is that no one in this world can be completely certain of his best plans. We must also realize that a small country like ours [words indistinct] in which the Armed Forces have great real power, and constitutional governments must act very carefully and with great precaution in carrying out their objectives.

We must not forget that many representatives of national politics and business, and many of this government's representatives, were described by the PDCH as seeking to isolate the military commanders.

I believe that we should avoid this now. We must have relations with the Armed Forces and with the worthy military -- relations between fellow citizens, respectful but dignified relations. Isolation degrades the military as well as the politicians and businessmen who enforce the isolation. This is the lesson. I hope we all learn it. This is the path to take. We must promote a convergence between the military and civilians for the welfare of the nation.

Commander's Post Termed Divisive

PA032255 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0420 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Interview with Carlos Sosa Cuello, a leader of the Innovation and Unity Party, PINU, by unidentified reporter on 2 April; place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] How do you view the future after General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez' fall? What should President Suazo Cordova do to consolidate civilian power?

[Sosa Cuello] I don't think President Suazo Cordova alone has the responsibility of strengthening institutional and constitutional power. I am not talking about civilian power, becasue the Army is also part of both constitutional power and Honduran democratic institutions.

The position of commander of the Armed Forces has been turned into a step prior to a coup d'etat, prior to having an executive only in title. The post of commander of the Armed Forces creates a dangerous dichotomy of power, a two-headed power, in Honduras. Honduras is a state whose form of government is expressed through three branches -- the legislative, executive, and judicial -- and therefore, it must not and should not accept any other power. The position of commander of the Armed Forces has provoked diversions within the armed institution. It has provoked confrontations between comrades in arms, between officers of different generations.

One need only analyze Honduras' recent history since 1958 to see that this position has become the apple of discord. The natural line of command through the commander in chief -- that is, the president of the republic -- the defense minister, the joint staff, the commands of the armed branches, in addition to the Supreme Defense Council as advisory body, should guarantee unity of command. We must explain that Honduras is the only country of the Western democracies where there is such a post as commander of the Armed Forces. There is no such post in any other Western democracy. The chain of command passes through the defense ministry in those countries. This position has hurt the Army as an institution, Honduras as a state, and the democracy that we all seek. Perhaps we should give some thought to eliminating this position.

We must also think about strengthening democracy, political democracy, and human rights, which for such a long time were threatened in this country. We must think about other legal reforms for this. One of them would be the dissolution, hear it well, the dissolution of the Department of National Investigation and the creation of the judicial police directly under the Supreme Court. The judicial police exist in all the democratic countries. This is another measure that would strengthen democracy.

In addition, there is the existence of organizations such as the APROH [Association for the Development of Honduras] which -- no matter how good the intentions at establishment -- developed into a quasi-conspiratorial pressure group. Perhaps we should seriously think about suspending the legal status of an institution that does not need to exist in Honduras, since there are professional and private enterprise organizations.

[Reporter] Some have said that APROH emerged as a result of Alvarez Martinez' plan to create a political group of businessmen that would support him in his future plans. Businessman Miguel Facuse had a role in this. When his aspirations to handle some financial matters of the Liberal Party through Suazo Cordova were frustrated, he sought Gustavo Alvarez Martinez' support. He was also allied with Benjamin Villanueva, a National Party member and former minister of the Melgar Castro Government, and Abraham Bennaton Ramos, former economy and commerce minister. Do you think APROH continues to be a threat to the constitutional government?

[Sosa Cuello] I think all organizations can be founded with very good intentions. I don't have proof of conspiratorial activities by Facusse, Villanueva, and Bennaton. But the fact is that the organization had become the instrument through which General Alvarez threw his weight around in the political, economic, and government sectors in our country. Since we have the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise, the chambers of commerce, the National Industrialist Association, the National Federation of Farmers and Cattlemen of Honduras -- which are the natural organizations of private enterprise -- and the Federation of Professional Associations, I don't see why an organization that had been created almost ad hoc to promote the image of the new ousted general should continue to exist. I think that the enthusiasm of its founders must have considerably decreased after they lost their most visible leader. Therefore, I think there are other organizations...[recording ends in progress]

Resignation Saved Country

PA040437 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] In the opinion of Alberto Rodriguez Espinoza, second vice president of the National Congress, the resignation of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez as chief of the Armed Forces has saved the republic and democracy in this country. In response to a question, the deputy replied that he was not trying to insinuate that there had been an abortive coup d'etat, because there were certain internal problems within the Armed Forces that the Honduran people should understand.

Deputy Rodriguez Espinoza said: The resignations in the top military positions have saved the republic and democracy. Other problems could appear later, but the measures taken simply show that we are living under a democratic regime. According to the second vice president of the National Congress, the mistake that the officers who were (?removed) from command were about to make would have led us into a domestic and international upheaval that we would now be regretting. However, he said: The people are satisfied and are showing support for the president of the republic and the Honduran Armed Forces because the mutual respect that must exist between the government and its armed branch has been established. Concluding, Rodriguez Espinoza said that in due time the National Congress will learn the names of the officers who will be nominated to fill the positions vacated by the resigning generals.

Military, Civilian Roles Viewed

PA040452 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Apr 84

["Current Events" commentary]

[Excerpt] The Honduran Government has reaffirmed again that the Armed Forces will continue to train only for national defense, without letting changes in the military leadership change this goal.

Only this concept, which adds to the enforcement of the Constitution and respect for its procedures, is sufficient to bring peace after confused circumstances caused fear and disorder.

The third press communique on Saturday and the president's speech on Saturday evening made it clear that the government and the Armed Forces have the joint purpose of keeping the Armed Forces removed from politics, apart from the discussions that concern civilians, who obey the Armed Forces charter and the Constitution and concern themselves with their own profession as the best guarantee for peace for the region.

President Roberto Suazo Cordova made it clear and emphasized that if the military did not meddle in politics and the politicians did not try to meddle in military affairs, the results of this definition of functions and duties could bring another benefit, that is, the strengthening of democracy and guarantees for human security and peace, including respect for human rights. It could also establish the circumstances to make peace a reality and not just the slogan or desire of this government.

This is what we gleaned from the president's speech. If we consider all the facts we will have sufficient confidence to assume that the civilian and democratic government has sufficient good will and the support of the young officers who want the country to be prepared to face all its problems.

Civilian Control Stressed

PA041930 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Congress yesterday officially learned of General Alvarez Martinez' resignation as Armed Forces commander in chief. Within 15 days, it will choose a replacement for Gen Alvarez Martinez from a three-member slate. Civilians have again created a climate of anticipation now that they have to elect a new Armed Forces commander in chief at Congress. It is always like this in Honduras: Civilians are eager to appoint a new military chief, to whom they cater after he becomes the top military leader. When they engage in disputes, civilians call on the military to settle them, and the military ends up taking over political power. This civilian behavior is part of Honduran folklore.

The Army must be turned into a truly apolitical institution, different from what it is now, when it is making decisions about the country's political destiny. A mechanism must be sought to make the Army truly institutional so its members will stop seeking wealth rather than serving the fatherland.

During his first 2 years in government, President Suazo has had the experience of hearing people around the world say that Alvarez Martinez gave the orders in his administration. And here lies the gist of this whole matter: Since he is no longer here, Alvarez Martinez can no longer be blamed for the government's blunders. Suazo Cordova must realize that he is carrying the entire burden on his shoulders now. We could even say that his mandate is truly beginning now. If the Suazo government really wants to change these anachronistic structures, now that it has become consolidated with the support of the Honduran Armed Forces middle echelons, it can look for a mechanism like the one we have suggested and subordinate the Armed Forces to the government -- turning it into a truly institutional force serving the fatherland -- rather than, as it is now, subordinating the government to the Army.

LIBERALS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR LOPEZ, SUAZO

PA050024 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] We reported a few minutes ago that the Liberal Party parliamentary bloc has expressed its support for General Walter Lopez to fill the post of commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces. Meanwhile, the Liberal Party leadership is preparing a gigantic march to show support for the constitutional government and the new military command. The march will be held in this capital, probably this coming Friday. During the march punishment will probably be requested for the military officers allegedly responsible for the disappearance of more than 100 persons.

The General Executive Council of the Liberal Party is preparing a march to show the Honduran people's support for the constitutional government and the new military leadership. The demonstration will be held in Tegucigalpa, probably this coming Friday. Instructions will be issued to this effect to the party leaders to mobilize the masses. Board members of the Central Directorate met yesterday afternoon to analyze the plans for holding the demonstration. According to the organizers of this event, Suazo Cordova's government needs a show of support to reaffirm the confidence of the people in the wake of the latest developments in the country.

It was learned that during the march the relatives of the missing persons will have an opportunity to demand punishment for the military officers allegedly responsible for violating human rights. One source said that the claims of the relatives of the missing persons will urge the president to instruct the new commander in chief of the Armed Forces to conduct a rigorous investigation of the case and to send those responsible to the tribunals to cleanse the honor of the Armed Forces. The punishment of those allegedly responsible for the disappearance of more than 100 persons over the past 3 years will permit the constitutional government to declare the missing persons dead and cleanse the image of the country, which at the international level has been seen as being among those countries where persons disappear.

MORE OFFICERS REPORTEDLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST

PA050414 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Apr 84 p 13

[Article by Neri Artiaga]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Colonel Rodolfo Bonilla Blanco has joined the list of officers who are under "house arrest," it was learned in Tegucigalpa. This officer is currently the chief of the command and staff school, and according to unconfirmed reports his residence is under heavy guard.

Apparently, Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara, commander of the 1st Artillery Battalion in Tamara, is another victim of these house arrests.

The two colonels were charged with refusing to participate in the efforts to oust General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez and other top military officers. It was common knowledge that Bonilla Blanco did not hold cordial relations with the commanding general, but he did show respect for the general and accept his orders.

Inthe case of Regalado Lara, the brother of Colonel Humberto Regalado Hernandez, who was nominated for chief of the Armed Forces, it is known that his battalion was taken over by the Army in an apparently normal operation, which removed him from command on the same day of the incident that shook the country. Meanwhile, it was learned yesterday that Colonel Victorio Sanchez, one of Gen Alvarez' closest friends, who was also chief of the general staff, was denied a visa to go to Panama.

Regalado Lara's Arrest Denied

PA050457 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 2147 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] It is completely false that Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara, a professional general staff officer, is under house arrest as reported today by a San Pedro Sula newspaper. As soon as it was reported that Col Regalado Lara was under house arrest, La Voz de Honduras reporters started an investigation to report objectively on the situation. At approximately 1100 today, it was learned that Col Regalado Lara has not been arrested, and that he is in his military unit fulfilling his duties.

We can report that Col Rigoberto Regalado Lara returned to Honduras on Sunday after spending several weeks in Panama, where he was taking courses at the School of the Americas in Fort Gulick on a scholarship given to him by that military training center with the Honduran Armed Forces' approval. As soon as Col Regalado Lara returned to Tegucigalpa, he visited the High Command's headquarters to learn about the incident that took place on Saturday, 31 March. Afterward, he assumed the command of the unit that was entrusted to him, that is, the 2d Infantry Battalion, also known as the Special Tactical Organization in Tamara. Therefore, in sum, it is completely false that Col Rigoberto Regalado Lara is under house arrest. He is performing the duties that have been entrusted to him at the 2d Infantry Battalion.

DEPOSED GENERALS APPOINTED TO FOREIGN SERVICE

PA052020 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] This is a last minute report regarding the fates of the generals who occupied the top posts in the Armed Forces Joint General Staff, the general command of the Public security forces, FUSEP, the Naval Forces command, and the Armed Forces inspector general's office.

We have been informed by reliable sources that the Armed Forces has decided to send the four generals -- who resigned last weekend -- to military attache positions. As is well known, these are Generals Daniel Castillo, former commander of FUSEP, Ruben Montoya, commander of the Naval Forces; Jose Rosa Bueso, chief of the Joint General Staff; and Marco Antonio Rosales Abella, inspector general of the Armed Forces.

Reports received at this station state that General Bali Castillo has been named military attache in Peru; General Ruben Montoya military attache in Taiwan; General Jose Rosa Bueso to similar functions in Chile; and General Marco Antonio Rosales Abella, in Washington, the United States. Montoya will replace Colonel Hubert Boden, who may return to the country. Rosales Abella will replace Colonel (Mario Flores Perkins), who might be appointed to another foreign service position.

We have been informed that the Foreign Ministry already has the agreements, properly signed, naming these generals to the positions. Our source said that the generals are to occupy their posts within the shortest time possible. It was also reported that the generals' house arrest will continue until they have packed their bags and papers to leave the country and take up the positions assigned to them abroad.

Meanwhile, as reported by this station exclusively last Monday, General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez will reside in Venezuela with his family for some time.

DEMONSTRATORS MARCH ON TEGUCIGALPA STREETS

PA060411 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0051 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Only a week after the fall of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, the leftist movements today staged the biggest popular demonstration of the past 10 years in the streets of Tegucigalpa, according to political observers. Called by the United Federation of Honduran Workers, the General Central Organization of Workers, universities, and student associations and fronts, some 30,000 persons, according to provisional figures, marched through the main avenues of this capital.

The demonstrators asked the government for "more freedom, an end to repression, moderation in labor conflicts, more justice, the reappearance of missing persons, less bureaucracy, more democracy, and lower taxes." The demonstration was divided into groups separated by huge red and black posters and loudspeakers.

Some of the posters contained slogans against the former chief of the Armed Forces, Gen Alvarez Martinez, blaming him for the repression and disappearance of persons in the past 24 months. The key locations and communication centers of Tegucigalpa passed by the demonstrators were heavily guarded by the Army, which at no time intervened against the demonstrators. When passing in front of the soldiers, the demonstrators shouted, "Exploited soldiers, revolt." The demonstration took place only a few hours after Air Force Brigadier General Walter Lopez Reyes had been sworn in as chief of the Armed Forces.

NICARAGUA

MOTLEY, SHLAUDEMAN TO MEET WITH VARIOUS SECTORS

PA051643 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Langhorne Motley, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and Harry Shlaudeman, President Reagan's roving ambassador for Central America, today arrived in Managua. They are on a tour of the region so that Shlaudeman can get to know the political, military, and social situation of the five Central American nations that he will be covering. Motley and Shlaudeman refused to make any statements on their arrival at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport at 1030.

According to the schedule prepared for their visit to Managua, they will have lunch today with representatives of the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board, private enterprise, and the church. Shortly after their arrival, the two U.S. officials spoke with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto.

They will meet with Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the convention center at 1800. They are scheduled to have breakfast tomorrow with Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo. They will then leave for Costa Rica.

The two high-ranking officials of the Reagan administration are on this tour while the U.S. Congress is discussing granting $21 million to the contras so that they can continue to kill Nicaraguan women, children, senior citizens, and youths.

RADIO SANDINO HAILS GARY HART STATEMENT

PA050019 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Station commentary: "Senator Hart Puts a Finger on the Sore Spot"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Senator Gary Hart, in his campaign for the presidential nomination, recently proposed the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Central America. An immediate reaction came from Secretary of State George Shultz, who branded the proposal ridiculous because, in his opinion, Central America is of vital improtance to U.S. security.

If all U.S. troops were to be withdrawn from the region, all problems affecting us over the past century would disapperar, as if by magic. Senator Hart has hit the nail on the head or, as the saying goes, he has put his finger on the sore spot! A sore spot that has been most painful to our suffering people, who no longer can endure such injustice and oppression. The only solution to the conflict, therefore, is the immediate withdrawal of those occupation troops who, like Walker's filibusterers, have brought only misery and sorrow to our people. Let the Yankees, then, take their intervention elsewhere. That is what all Central Americans want, because we are fed up with their abuse of mankind. Only then can we begin truly friendly and humane relations with the U.S. people, who share our sentiments of solidarity and fraternal coexistence, which we all desire.

REACTION TO FRENCH OFFER TO REMOVE MINES

Cordova: Accept Cooperation

PA060205 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has said that the revolutionary government will readily accept any cooperation from friendly nations. He was referring to the recent offer made by French President Francois Mitterrand to help, along with other European nations, Nicaragua remove the mines from Nicaraguan ports. The following is a recorded interview with Dr Cordova Rivas.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the position of the revolutionary government concerning the offer made by France to help us clear our ports of mines?

[Cordova Rivas] We immediately accepted any cooperation to remove the mines from Nicaraguan ports, so that free navigation in our waters may be safe for the benefit of all free nations of the world. The mining of our ports by the United States is an abuse. That big power turns its face the other way while it drops the mines in our waters. [end recording]

Ambassador on UN Reaction

PA060305 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Telephone interview with Javier Chamorro Mora, ambassador to the United States, by unidentified reporter; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Companero Ambassador, what has been the reaction at the United Nations to the French message to Colombian President Betancur, stating that France and other European countries are considering the possibility of sending resources to Nicaragua to have the mines removed from Nicaraguan waters, from our country's ports?

[Chamorro] Just today, international news dispatches began circulating on the letter sent to President Betancur by External Relations Minister Cheysson on President Mitterrand's instructions. A number of UN delegations were very pleased at this decision or proposal that France and other countries offer their aid to solve the problem of the blockade currently being faced by Nicaragua.

In sum, we believe that the idea has been welcomed. Moreover, this action is viewed as a necessity in the face of the adverse results that the blockade could produce. Therefore, I think that not a single country, except the United States, opposes the right to free navigation and trade -- which is an essential element of the foreign policy of the majority of countries of the international community. Moreover, not long ago, several months ago, the UN Security Council approved a resolution on the Iran-Iraq war, namely Resolution No 540, making a clear call for the right to free navigation and trade in the Strait of Hormuz to be respected.

Later, the United States, even President Reagan himself -- this is a contradiction; we notice the existing contradiction in the current U.S. double-standard policy toward different areas of the world -- advocated and also took what it called military measures to guarantee free navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, in the Persian Gulf.

Conversely, in Nicaragua the United States advocates measures that harm international trade and free navigation. Therefore, countries such as France, Sweden, and others in other parts of the world cannot logically agree with this kind of policy. Those countries must seek ways to help prevent these things from happening.

COMMENTATOR ON USSR DEFENSE OF FREEDOM OF SEAS

PA051652 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Commentary by Eligio Alvarez: "The Soviet Union Prepares To Defend Freedom of the Seas"]

[Text] The extraordinary nature of the air and naval maneuvers of the Soviet fleets on the Baltic Sea and Arctic Ocean has already been recognized by NATO Headquarters in Brussels because of their timing. In our view they are not simple and routine military exercises. Instead, they are a clear warning from the Kremlin that the Soviet Union is prepared for any emergency and, at the very least, is ready to maintain freedom of the seas.

The Soviet Union's clear warning is aimed directly at NATO and at those in Washington who believe that, with Andropov's death and the arrival of new leaders in the Kremlin, there is still no coherence in the policy to be followed in the face of the Reagan administration's increasing escalation of aggression and desire for hegemony.

The conduct of the Soviet high command is tantamount to telling Washington and its allies that they should not expect the Kremlin to be unprepared to respond effectively to the challenges that President Reagan in trying to impose in all spheres.

As is known, beginning on 20 April the United States will carry out air and naval maneuvers in the Caribbean and the Atlantic with headquarters in Puerto Rico. They are called "Ocean Venture 84" and will include the participation of hundreds of ships and planes and 40,000 Marines.

Many observers believe that these maneuvers might be a rehearsal for an invasion of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

We believe that such a possibility explains the presence in Cuba of a Soviet flotilla led by the 17,000-ton helicopter carrier cruiser the Leningrad and other ships and submarines. It would also explain, at an even higher level, the beginning of a total mobilization of the Soviet Navy's fleets in all the world's oceans in order to be alert to any contingency, even one that is the result of maintaining the Soviet merchant ships' right to free navigation throughout the world, a right guaranteed by international law and the Geneva Convention.

TUNNERMAN GETS SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA, EDUCATION

PA051656 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Austria, Spain, and the GDR have reiterated their support for the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve a negotiated peace settlement in Central America. This is one of the achievements made by the Nicaraguan education minister during his recent trip to Europe and was disclosed in this capital today.

Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman revealed that in the three countries he visited he found great understanding for the situation in Nicaragua, as well as firm solidarity with the country and a willingness to cooperate in the education field.

In the GDR, he reached preliminary agreements with the educational authorities regarding advice on polytechnical training centers, courses in advanced teaching techniques, and cooperation in the printing of textbooks.

In Austria, Minister Tunnerman delivered speeches in six different cities as part of a program prepared by the Committee for Aid to Nicaragua, which is planning to build an entire town in Las Azucenas, Rio San Juan Department, 300 km southeast of Managua. This is one of the poorest areas of the country.

In Spain, Minnister Tunnerman formalized a cooperation agreement for $5 million in educational material, printing of textbooks, exchange of education-related information and experiences, and the training of teachers for polytechnical shools.

ELECTORAL LAW FOR NOVEMBER BALLOTING PUBLISHED

PA030335 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Mar 84 Supplement

[Electoral Law issued by the State Council on 15 March and implemented on 28 March -- passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] THE JUNTA OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

Announces to the Nicaraguan people that:

The State Council of the Republic of Nicaragua, meeting in Special Session No 7 from 22 February to 15 March 1984, "50 YEARS LATER...SANDINO LIVES"

CONSIDERING

I That the Fundamental Statute of the Republic of Nicaragua, the legal basis of the new revolutionary state, demands the promulgation of an electoral law that will truly guarantee to Nicaraguans for the first time the right to freely elect their rulers.

II That in order to meet this demand, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has promulgated the laws needed for this purpose, including Decree No 1400, dated 21 February 1984, which summons Nicaraguan citizens to participate in elections for president, vice president and National Assembly representatives.

III That the promulgation of the Political Parties law has contributed to the strengthening of political pluralism and to the institutionalization of the revolutionary process.

IV That the exercise of suffrage must be considered a patriotic responsibility in revolutionary Nicaragua, where the citizen exercises this right freely by participating in the election of his top authorities. At the same time, suffrage is a civic right that expresses and guarantees the people's direct participation in the country's basic affairs; that is, their inalienable right to build the new society and their own future without foreign interference of any kind.

V That, because there is no law to guarantee the election of top authorities, it is therefore necessary to promulgate an electoral law that, while establishing the required procedures for citizens to exercise the right to a free, secret, equal and direct vote, will essentially respond to our people's historical realities.

THEREFORE

Exercising the powers conferred upon it by Article 18 of the Fundamental Statute of the Republic of Nicaragua

DECREES

The following:

"ELECTORAL LAW"

CHAPTER I -- OBJECT OF THE LAW

Article 1. With the present law, the Sandinist people's revolution institutionalizes the Nicaraguan people's right to choose their top authorities in a free and sovereign manner through universal, equal and secret suffrage, as well as their right to be elected to public posts.

It is one's patriotic responsibility to make use of the right to vote, within the conditions of freedom won by the revolution, in order to contribute to the political, economic and social reorganization of the country.

Article 2. The object of this law is to regulate all matters relevent to the electoral process, which are understood to be all activities directed toward the election of executive and legislative authorities in conformity with the Fundamental Statute, its amendments, and Decree No 1400, dated 21 February 1984.

CHAPTER II -- ON ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 3. The Fundamental Statute of the Republic and the present law establish that the following electoral organizations are charged with implementation of the present law:

1. The Supreme Electoral Council [Consejo Supremo Electoral -- CSE] which will be the highest authority in electoral matters.

2. The Electoral Councils, which will be regional, subregional, or of special zones, as applicable,

3. The Zonal Electoral Boards, and

4. The Ballot Receiving Boards.

Article 4. The CSE will consist of a president and two principals, each with his respective alternate, appointed by the Supreme Court of Justice within the 15 days following implementation of this law. Any member of the CSE who is temporarily absent will be replaced by his alternate. In the case of a permanent absence, the Supreme Court of Justice will decide whether the principal is to be replaced by his alternate or whether another person is to be appointed to the post.

Article 5. To be a member of the CSE, it is necessary to meet the following requirements:

a. To be a native of Nicaragua.

b. To be at least 25 years of age.

c. To be eligible to fully exercise political and civil rights.

Article 6. The members of the CSE and their alternates will be sworn in and will take possession of their posts in a single ceremony before the Supreme Court of Justice within the 15 days following notification of their appointments.

Article 7. The following are the duties of the CSE:

a. To appoint the members of the electoral, regional, subregional and special zone councils.

b. To organize, regulate, and supervise the registration of citizens on the Electoral Lists.

c. To devise an electoral calendar, scheduling periods for:

1) The electoral campaign,

2) The registration of political parties and alliances,

3) The registration of candidates,

4) The registration of citizens.

d. To resolve appeals and complaints filed against the Electoral Councils.

e. To resolve annulment requests in the cases contemplated by this law.

f. To register candidates proposed by political parties or alliances.

g. To supervise and control the other electoral organizations.

h. To dictate the necessary provisions for enforcement of the present law.

i. To carry out the national vote count.

j. To announce the elected officials and present them with their credentials.

k. To formulate its own budget.

1. Any other duty indicated by the present law.

Article 8. The National Assembly of Political Parties [ANPP] will be the consultative organ of the CSE, which will request of the ANPP basic opinions on matters that it deems to be pertinent, including the following:

1. On the electoral calendar, particularly the electoral campaign.

2. On electoral registration.

3. On electoral ethics.

Article 9. Resolutions of the CSE will be reached by majority vote and will not be subject to any ordinary or special appeal.

Article 10. The following are the duties of the CSE president:

a. To convoke and preside over CSE sessions.

b. To serve as official CSE representative.

c. To enforce CSE resolutions.

d. To arrange everything related to the administration and functioning of electoral organizations and to determine the number and format for appointment of the necessary auxiliary personnel.

e. Any other duty assigned by the present law.

Article 11. It is the duty of the other two CSE principals to participate in CSE sessions and resolutions with both voice and vote, and to assist the president by carrying out the functions assigned to them by CSE resolution.

Article 12. The Electoral Councils are appointed by the CSE and consist of a president and two members, with their respective alternates. They must meet the same requirements listed in Article 5 of the present law. The Electoral Councils will choose one of their members to serve as secretary.

Article 13. The CSE president will swear in the members of the Electoral Councils.

Article 14. The following are the duties of the Electoral Councils:

a. To appoint the members of the Zonal Electoral Boards and the Ballot Receiving Boards.

b. To install the members of the Zonal Electoral Boards.

c. To hear and resolve complaints, challenges, and appeals presented against the Zonal Electoral Boards.

ch. To supervise and control the Zonal Electoral Boards.

d. To verify the vote count of the Ballot Receiving Boards.

e. To present credentials to the inspectors of political parties or alliances who participate in the elections pursuant to Article 21 of the present law.

f. Other duties assigned by the present law or by the CSE.

Article 15. Within their respective electoral jurisdictions, the presidents of the electoral, regional, subregional or special zone councils will have the same duties as the CSE president.

Article 16. The Zonal Electoral Boards will consist of a president and a secretary with their respective alternates, who will meet the requirements listed in Article 5 of the present law. They will be amended by the Electoral Council of the respective electoral district.

Article 17. The Zonal Electoral Boards will have the following duties:

a. To propose to the Electoral Council of their respective district the names of members of the Ballot Receiving Boards.

b. To oversee the proper functioning of the Ballot Receiving Boards.

c. Any other duty assigned by the present law or the Electoral Council of their respective district.

Article 18. The Ballot Receiving Boards will consist of a president and a secretary with their respective alternates, who must meet the requirements stipulated in Article 5 of the present law, except that they need only be 21 years of age or older. They will be appointed by the Electoral Council of the respective district.

Article 19. The Ballot Receiving Boards will have the following duties:

a. To review the registration of the electors for conformity with the requirements of the law and reorganize the registration if necessary.

b. To guarantee the exercise of suffrage.

c. To receive the ballots.

d. To count the votes in their areas.

e. To receive requests that votes be impugned and process them in accordance with the provisions of the present law.

f. Any other duty assigned under the present law.

Article 20. A member of any of the Electoral Councils, Zonal Boards or Ballot Reception Boards who is temporarily absent will be replaced by his respective alternate. In the event of a permanent absence, the CSE or the Electoral Council of the respective district, as applicable, will decide whether the alternate will assume the post or whether a replacement will be appointed.

Article 21. Every political party or alliance registered by the CSE has the right to appoint an inspector and his respective alternate to each of the Electoral Councils, as well as to each Ballot Receiving Board.

The names of the appointed inspectors must be reported to the Electoral Council of the respective district at least 15 days before registration of the electors begins. After the registration is completed, inspectors may be appointed no later than 15 days prior to election day. Appointment of an inspector and his alternate is not obligatory; parties or alliances may appoint them when they deem it advisable.

Article 22. The inspectors of political parties or alliances will have the following prerogatives:

a. To be present in the Electoral Councils during the period of registration of electors and during the vote count.

b. To be present at the site where each Ballot Reception Board is operating on registration and voting days.

c. To present the appeals permitted under this law.

d. To make comments in the voting record when they deem it necessary and to sign the record in conformity with the provisions of the present law. A refusal to sign the voting record does not invalidate it. Such a refusal to sign, and the reasons given by the inspector, should be noted in the record.

CHAPTER III -- ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Article 23. For the election of the president and vice president, the electoral district will be nationwide.

Article 24. For the election of the National Assembly, which will be made up of 90 representatives and their respective alternates, the country will be divided into 10 regional, subregional, and special zone electoral districts which are listed, with the number of representatives to be elected in each, as follows:

a. Region 1, consisting of the Departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Esteli; nine representatives.

b. Region 2, encompassing the Departments of Leon and Chinandega, 15 representatives.

c. Region 3, consisting of the Department of Managua, will be divided into two subregions; the first having 13 representatives, and the second 12 representatives.

d. Region 4, consisting of the Departments of Granada, Masaya, Carazo, and Rivas, 14 representatives.

e. Region 5, consisting of the Departments of Chontales and Boaco, 10 representatives.

f. Region 6, consisting of the Departments of Jinotega and Matagalpa, 11 representatives.

g. Special Zone 1, consisting of the territory from the Rio Grande in Matagalpa to the northern border, known as northern Zelaya, 3 representatives.

h. Special Zone II, encompassing the territory from the Rio Grande in Matagalpa to the border of Special Zone III, known as southern Zelaya, 2 representatives.

i. Special Zone III, consisting of Rio San Juan Department, 1 representative.

Article 25. The electoral districts will each have their respective Zonal Boards. Within the jurisdiction of the latter there will be Ballot Receiving Boards, which will in turn have their own jurisdictions.

Article 26. The CSE will demarcate the subregions of Managua Department and the territories of the Zonal Electoral Boards and the Ballot Receiving Boards in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 of the present law.

CHAPTER IV -- ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL ALLIANCES

Article 27. Only political parties that have legal status in accordance with the Political Parties Law may register with the CSE to participate in the elections. This registration is an indispensable requirement for them to exercise the rights conferred by the present law.

Article 28. In addition to the alliances mentioned by the Political Parties Law and its regulations, parties may also form alliances for electoral purposes.

Article 29. The alliance agreement among political parties for the election of executive authorities or representatives to the National Assembly must list:

a. The parties that make up the alliance, the name of the alliance, and its legal representatives.

b. The elections in which they will participate as allies.

c. General data on the candidates and the political parties to which they belong.

d. The post for which they are being nominated and the district in which they will participate.

e. Acronyms, emblems, and colors adopted.

Political parties that join alliances will conserve their legal status and their identity.

Article 30. The alliance agreement will be presented to the CSE, which will determine whether it meets the stipulations of Article 29 and then proceed to register it.

Article 31. The alliance will present its candidates either with the registration and emblem of the alliance, with the name and emblem of each of the participating parties, or with the name and emblem of any one of the allied parties.

Article 32. The political parties in the alliance may identify their candidates on the electoral ballot by placing their acronym beside the candidate's name.

Article 33. Political parties may not nominate their own candidates in national, regional, subregional, or special zone electoral districts in which there are candidates of the alliance to which the party belongs.

CHAPTER V -- ON THE CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA

Article 34. The electoral campaign period is understood to be the period designated by the CSE for activities organized and carried out by political parties or alliances for the purpose of explaining more clearly their ideological principles, their political, social, and economic programs, and their government platforms. The campaign will also be directed toward winning votes for their candidates.

The CSE will set the duration of the electoral campaign between a minimum of 2 months and a maximum of 4 months.

Article 35. During the electoral campaign period, the political parties or alliances may publish books, magazines, leaflets, pamphlets, flysheets, posters and signs, etc., and make use of the press, radio, and television and all kinds of cultural, social, and political events in line with existing laws and the instructions of the CSE, without disregarding the provisions of the Political Parties Law and its regulations.

All electoral propaganda must carry the identification of the responsible political party or alliance; printed propaganda must carry the publisher's imprint.

Article 36. In each electoral district, the political parties or alliances must accredit a representative and alternate to carry out and be responsible for the party's electoral propagandizing. This representative and alternate must be registered with the corresponding Electoral Council.

Electoral propaganda may also be disseminated by the following methods:

a. By means of loudspeakers fixed in place or attached to vehicles, with prior authorization from the corresponding Electoral Council. The councils will forbid the use of loudspeakers for electoral purposes between 2200 and 0500.

This propaganda must be related to the participation of citizens in the electoral process and must consist of the reading of lists of candidates, and the basic points of their programs, and of invitations to open-air demonstrations or indoor activities.

b. By means of banners, placards, or posters affixed to buildings, with the prior authorization of the residents. This type of propaganda may not be affixed to public monuments or buildings, or to churches.

c. By means of the press, radio, and television, with observance of the principles of free contracting.

Article 37. The CSE will guarantee to political parties or alliances participating in the elections the dissemination of their propaganda during the electoral campaign over the Sistema Sandinista Television Network and over state- and privately-owned radio stations with equal conditions.

a. For the duration of the electoral campaign, the Sistema Sandinista Television Network will assign 15 minutes of network time on both channels. This total time will be distributed equally to each political party or alliance that participates in the elections.

b. Each state-owned radio station will allot 30 minutes a day. This total time will be distributed equally to the political parties or alliances participating in the elections.

c. Parties or alliances will have the right to freely contract the use of privately owned radio stations for their electoral campaigns with the following limitations: Private radio stations will be obliged to guarantee to each party or alliance a minimum of 5 but no more than 30 minutes a day. Religious radio stations may not participate in political campaigning or accept contracts for that purpose.

d. Political parties or alliances may use their allotted time daily, or add up their weekly total of television and state radio time for use for documentaries, personal presentations by the candidates, reports on party activities, or political debates. These programs must be prepared in Nicaragua, by Nicaraguans.

e. During the electoral campaign, each political party or alliance may use 15 vignettes lasting a maximum of 1 minute. In the case of the Sistema Sandinista Television Network, these will not be included in the time allotted in clause a. of this article.

In the case of the radio stations, these will be included in the time allotted in clauses b. and c. of this article, respectively.

f. The political parties will present their proposed calendar of programs and vignettes for airing on television and on state and private radio stations to the CSE which, after hearing them and based on the criteria of alternating the parties and with the advisory services of the director of the Sistema Sandinista Television Network and of the respective station directors, will prepare a final calendar and send it to the political parties or alliances that are participating in the elections.

g. Each party or alliance must pay the cost of its programs and vignettes, which includes program time on the radio and television stations, as well as the costs of production and preparation. The Sistema Sandinista Television Network and the various radio stations will present their rates to the CSE within 12 days following the establishment of that council.

The CSE, after consulting with the political parties participating in the elections, will set the tariffs that will be applied for the purposes of the present law.

Article 38. The following rules will apply in holding public demonstrations.

a. The organizers will present to the appropriate Electoral Council a request to hold a demonstration, giving the date, time, day, place, and route.

b. The request must be presented at least 1 week prior to the event. The Electoral Councils will reach a decision within 48 hours after the presentation of the request.

c. In the event that several applications are presented to hold demonstrations that might coincide in time and place, the Electoral Councils may modify the program of the activity in consultation with the applicants in order to avoid disruptions of public order, with the order in which the applications were presented being one of the criteria.

d. The Sandinist Police will prevent the activity of groups of persons seeking to prevent public demonstrations authorized by law.

Article 39. The rights established in this chapter for the benefit of parties or alliances will only be exercised by those which are registered to participate in the elections.

Article 40. Propaganda calling for abstention from the election is forbidden.

Article 41. Seventy-two hours before the voting begins, all electoral campaigning will end, and all the media will be placed at the disposal of the CSE to disseminate information on the procedures for exercising the right to vote.

Article 42. Political parties or alliances that believe their rights have been violated or denied may appeal decisions of the Electoral Councils to the CSE.

Article 43. Political parties or alliances will file the appeal mentioned in Article 42 on plain paper within 6 days of being notified of the decision by the Electoral Council in question.

The CSE will rule on the appeal within 8 days, during which time it may request the presentation of evidence if it deems this necessary.

CHAPTER VI -- ON ELECTORAL ETHICS

Article 44. During the electoral campaign, propaganda must show respect for the supreme values of the fatherland and reflect due consideration for other parties or alliances, for the nominated candidates, for the electors, and for the Nicaraguan people.

Article 45. Political parties or alliances must use the electoral campaign as a contribution to the civic education of Nicaraguans, among other purposes. Methods contrary to ethics and morality must never be used.

Consequently, it is forbidden:

a. To denigrate or slander the candidates presented by the political parties or alliances.

b. To distribute products that encourage vice.

c. To give gifts that in the opinion of the CSE will induce the electors to vote for particular candidates, parties, or alliances.

d. To present the candidates by means of the publicity resources that are used to promote commercial merchandise.

Violators of these rules will be penalized in conformity with the provisions of the present law and the existing Penal Code.

CHAPTER VII -- ON FINANCING

Article 46. The state will allot the sum of 6 million cordobas to finance the expenditures of each party or alliance participating in the elections. Of this sum, each party or alliance will have the right to withdraw 1.5 million cordobas for its presidential and vice presidential campaign, and 4.5 million cordobas for its campaign for representatives to the National Assembly. It may not withdraw the first amount unless it has presented candidates for president and vice president. From the second sum it may withdraw 50,000 cordobas for each candidate for representative. In both cases it is committed to carry out the corresponding campaign until it culminates in the elections.

Article 47. The funds mentioned in Article 46 will be disbursed by the CSE in accordance with a calendar it will prepare for that purpose.

Article 48. A political party or alliance that withdraws after having received financing from the CSE for its participation in the elections must return the sums received within 1 month of withdrawing from the electoral race.

If it should fail to do so, its legal representatives will be penalized according to the provisions of Volume II, Title VIII, Chapter X of the Penal Code.

Article 49. Parties or alliances that receive donations from abroad must report them to the Central Bank and determine, in agreement with the CSE, the portion of foreign exchange that it will use for purchases abroad.

Local donations for the electoral campaign must be reported by the political parties to the CSE.

Political parties or alliances or their representatives that violate this article will be penalized in conformity with existing legislation.

CHAPTER VIII -- ON THE REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

Article 50. Political parties or alliances registered by the CSE in accordance with Article 27 of the present law may present candidates for election as president and vice president, for the posts of representatives to the national Assembly, or in both races, as they wish, with the limitation noted in Article 33 of the present law. They may present candidates for the National Assembly in one, several, or all of the electoral districts, and may present as many candidates as they deem fit, even if they do not cover all of the seats ascribed to each electoral district.

Article 51. The registration period for candidates to the presidency and vice president of the republic and for representatives to the National Assembly will remain open until the CSE decides to close it.

Nominations made outside this period will not be considered.

Article 52. Only political parties or alliances may request the registration of candidates. The request must be presented in duplicate and must contain:

a. Name, acronym and emblem of the party or alliance making the nomination.

b. The full name of the candidates.

c. Place and date of birth and residence.

ch. Position for which he is being nominated.

d. Electoral district in which he is being nominated, in the case of nominations for National Assembly representatives.

Article 53. The CSE may deny a request for registration of a candidate for failure to fulfill format requirements or failure to meet the qualifications established in the present law.

The party or alliance proposing the nomination will be notified of this decision within 3 days following the presentation of the request for registration. Defects in format may be corrected within 5 days following the notification. When the request is denied because the candidate does not meet the qualifications required by law, the party or alliance may replace him within 5 days of being so notified.

Article 54. Political parties or alliances may freely replace candidates during the period established for the registration of candidates.

Article 55. After the candidate registration period ends and before the electoral campaign begins, political parties or alliances may request that the CSE cancel or replace any of the registered candidates for reasons of death, disqualification or disability.

Article 56. When the registration period is concluded, the CSE will announce the list of candidates through the media.

Article 57. No person may be registered for two positions.

Article 58. Candidates for president and vice president of the republic who are not elected will occupy a position in the National Assembly as principal representative and alternate of an electoral district chosen by their parties.

In order to make use of this right, the party or alliance in question must express this intention in writing to the CSE within 3 days following the closure of the candidate registration period.

The candidates mentioned in the foregoing paragraph may be elected only if they received, in the district in which they participated, a number of votes equal to or higher than the electoral quotient of the district. In that case, the party or alliance will determine which of their candidates will be replaced.

If the required number of votes is not obtained, the order of the list will not be altered. Other candidates will be governed by the rules listed in Chapter XVI of the present law.

CHAPTER IX -- ON THE ELECTORS

Article 59. Suffrage is an individual right. The vote is universal, personal, free, direct, equal and secret.

Article 60. Nicaraguan citizens who are entitled to the full exercise of political rights have the right to vote. To exercise this right, citizens must be registered.

Article 61. Persons falling into any of the following categories may not be registered and mav not vote:

a. Those who are being tried for crimes that receive more than correctional penalties or who are serving prison sentences.

b. Former officers of the extinct national Guard and former members of the Somozist security corps who were implicated in criminal acts and have not been brought to trial.

c. Counterrevolutionary chiefs or leaders who have requested the intervention of a foreign power or requested funds to finance counterrevolutionary actions in Nicaragua.

ch. Counterrevolutionary chiefs or leaders who have directed or planned terrorist attacks against the Nicaraguan population or the country's economic resources.

Article 62. Political rights may be exercised by persons who have accepted Decree No 1353, published in OFFICIAL GAZETTE No 275 of 6 December 1983, and its extension, Decree No 1401, published in OFFICIAL GAZETTE No 40 of 24 February 1984.

Article 63. Members of the Sandinist Armed Forces on active duty may not participate in political campaigning.

CHAPTER X -- ON THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Article 64. The CSE will demarcate the jurisdiction of the Zonal Electoral Boards in each electoral district through administrative resolutions.

It will also determine the number of Ballot Receiving Boards in the country, establishing their territorial limitation and location in proportion to the estimated number of voters and the distribution of the population. It will make known its decisions on this regard sufficiently early.

Article 65. All Nicaraguan citizens have the obligations of appearing before the Ballot Receiving Boards to register in the electoral lists in the way, date, and place that is established for this purpose.

Article 66. Nicaraguans who are not legally of age to vote but who will reach that age before or on the date of the elections, have the same obligation established in Article 65 of this law.

Article 67. The CSE will direct the registration in the electoral lists of the Nicaraguans included in Articles 65 and 66 of this law through the offices that will be established for this purpose.

Article 68. The registration of citizens will be carried out at the Ballot Receiving Boards at the locations where they usually live, even though they might be temporarily somewhere else. The members of the Armed Forces will register at the Ballot Receiving Board where they are in service. The members of the Ballot Receiving Boards, the inspectors, and assistants will register at the Ballot Receiving Boards where they are stationed.

Article 69. The Ballot Receiving Boards will be set up in the buildings, places, and at the day and hours established for the registration of citizens.

Article 70. Citizens must register personally. For identification and determination of age, citizens can use birth certificate, INSSBI [Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute] identification card, driver's license, passport, or any other document that identifies them, or two competent witnesses can legally testify.

The proof will be evaluated in accordance with the rules of sound criticism by the Ballot Receiving Board which will therefore have the power to accept or reject the registration.

The registration will be completed with a signature and fingerprint. Those who do not know how or cannot sign, will just place their fingerprint. In the case of persons who do not have their upper limbs, such a situation will be explained.

Article 71. After the citizen is registered in the Electoral List, the Ballot Receiving Board will give him a document that will be called the Civic Book.

Article 72. The Electoral Lists are books in which the citizens will register to vote and will contain:

a) Location of the Ballot Receiving Board.

b) Number and code of the registration.

c) First name and surnames of the citizen.

ch) Date and place of birth.

d) Sex

e) Place of usual residence and address.

f) Signature and fingerprint of the citizen who is registered.

g) Form of identification.

h) Box to opportunely record whether or not he exercised the right to vote.

Article 73. The Electoral Lists will be in duplicate. The CSE will store one copy while the Electoral Council of the district will hold the other.

Article 74. The Electoral Lists will include the days, dates of registration and voting and reason for opening and closing of the lists, and will be signed by all the members of the Ballot Receiving Board and by the inspectors of the political parties or alliances if they so desire.

Article 75. At the end of each day of registration, the Ballot Receiving Boards will publish the names of those registered in lists posted at the site of registration.

The lists must be posted for at least 10 days and must include the number and code of registration and the citizen's full name.

Article 76. The purpose of the preceding provisions is to make it possible, during this period, for interested persons to ask the Electoral Council to correct errors in registration and omissions from the lists, or to void certain names.

Article 77. For the effects of Articles 76, 79 and 86, interested persons will be defined as:

a. Persons who are directly affected.

b. Political parties or alliances participating in the elections.

Article 78. The Electoral Lists will be forwarded to the Ballot Receiving Boards, to the appropriate Electoral Council, and to the CSE, when the registration period has closed.

Article 79. Once the Electoral Lists have been received, the Electoral Council of the appropriate district will proceed, ex-officio or at the request of the interested persons, to correct them as needed.

Article 80. The Civic Book is a public identification document and an indispensable requirement to be able to vote at the polls.

Article 81. The Civic Book will contain:

a. Location of the Ballot Receiving Board.

b. Registration Number and Code.

c. Full name of the registered citizen.

ch. Date and place of birth.

d. Customary place of residence and address.

e. Sex.

f. Signature and fingerprint of the registered person, with the exceptions noted in Article 70.

g. A box for noting that the bearer has voted.

h. Signature of the president of the Ballot Receiving Board.

i. A seal.

Article 82. Those who falsify a Civic Book will be guilty of the crime of falsifying authentic public documents, in conformity with Article 473 and the following articles of the Penal Code.

Article 83. If the Civic Book should be lost, damaged, or found to contain errors, the interested person will go to the Electoral Council of his district to request that it be replaced.

Article 84. The CSE will draft a special form for requesting replacement of the Civic Book.

Article 85. When a request for replacement of the Civic Book has been received and has met the requirements of this law, the Council of the appropriate district will be obliged to honor the request within 3 days.

CHAPTER XI -- ON REGISTRATION APPEALS

Article 86. Pursuant to Article 76 of the present law, interested persons may appeal actions of the Ballot Receiving Boards to the Electoral Council of their district, requesting:

a. The exclusion of persons from the Electoral Lists.

b. Their inclusion when it has been denied.

c. Correction of registration errors.

The request must be presented to the Ballot Receiving Board or directly to the Electoral Council of the appropriate district.

Article 87. The Electoral Council concerned must answer the request within 5 days. If the response is favorable, it will send a copy of its resolution to the CSE so that the latter may act accordingly. In addition, it will order the resolution posted at the site of the appropriate Ballot Receiving Boards for a period of 10 days.

Article 88. If the request is denied, it will be possible to file a dissenting appeal with the CSE within 3 days.

Article 89. The dissenting appeal will be submitted in writing and will contain:

a. The full name of the person making the appeal.

b. The action that has motivated the appeal.

Whatever evidence is considered appropriate may be included.

Article 90. Once the CSE has received the appeal, it will make a resolution within 5 days. The interested person and the Electoral Council concerned will be informed of the resolution. When necessary, the CSE will order the correction of the Electoral List involved and the replacement or issuance of the Civic Book concerned.

CHAPTER XII -- ON THE ELECTION OF HIGHEST AUTHORITIES

Article 91. The authorities that will be elected in conformity with the provisions of the present law are:

a. President and vice president of the republic.

b. Representatives to the National Assembly.

Article 92. To be elected president or vice president, the following is required:

a. To be a native of Nicaragua.

b. To have reached 25 years of age.

c. To be a layman.

ch. To be entitled to full political rights.

Article 93. To be a representative to the National Assembly, it is necessary.

a. To be a native of Nicaragua.

b. To have reached 21 years of age.

c. To be entitled to full political and civil rights.

Article 94. The following may not be registered as candidates for president, vice president, or National Assembly representatives unless they resign from their posts 1 day after the candidate registration period opens:

a. Supreme Court justices and other members of the Judicial Branch in positions of authority.

b. Principals and alternates of electoral organizations.

c. Members of the Sandinist Armed Forces on active duty.

CHAPTER XIII - ON THE VOTING

Article 95. The CSE will send the ballots and other electoral materials to the Councils of each district for distribution to the Ballot Receiving Boards through the Zonal Electoral Boards at least 6 days prior to the date of the elections.

Article 96. Two kinds of electoral ballots will be used for voting:

One for choosing a president and vice president, which will be used nationwide, and another ballot for choosing National Assembly representatives, which will be different in each electoral district. It will be the duty of the CSE to design the ballots, clearly identifying the different parties or alliances in conformity with the provisions of Articles 31 and 32 of the present law.

Article 97. The CSE will prepare sample electoral ballots and instructions on how to vote and publicize them by any of the media so that they will be familiar to the electors beforehand.

These ballots must carry a printed statement that they are samples.

Article 98. The members of the Ballot Receiving Boards and their respective alternates will be installed at their corresponding sites at 0600 on the day set for the elections, which will begin at 0700. After that time, and if the Receiving Board has been duly constituted, the alternates may withdraw.

In the event that any member of the Board should fail to arrive, he will be immediately replaced by his alternate. If the principal should arrive later, he will take the place of his replacement. The duly accredited inspectors of the political parties or alliances may also be present.

Article 99. For vote-receiving purposes, the Ballot Receiving Boards will be located at the same sites that they occupied for registration. Their locations must meet the minimum requirements set by the CSE to guarantee the voter a secret vote.

However, Ballot Receiving Boards which are obliged to change locations within their territorial jurisdiction for reasons beyond their control may do so with the prior authorization of the Electoral Council of the corresponding district.

This change must be announced to the people concerned 3 days prior to election day.

The Nicaraguan flag will be flown at the site occupied by the Ballot Receiving Board for the duration of the voting.

Article 100. The members of the Ballot Receiving Board will prepare a record in the manner and with the number of copies determined by the CSE. It should include:

a. A statement that the Ballot Receiving Board was constituted and a list of its members.

b. Certification that the locale meets the minimum requirements for its purpose.

c. The number of electoral ballots received for the voting.

ch. A statement that they have inspected the ballot boxes and shown them to the inspectors of the political parties or alliances for verification that they were empty, and that they later closed and sealed the ballot boxes.

d. The signature of the members of the Ballot Receiving Boards.

The inspectors may sign if they so desire.

Article 101. While there is voting and as long as the voting record is not signed, one cannot:

a. Change the location of the voting.

b. Illegally introduce or remove ballots from the ballot boxes.

c. Remove from the location papers or any other material used for the vote.

d. A member of the Ballot Receiving Board cannot leave his post if his respective alternate is not present.

In the case of a justified emergency, the voting will continue with the other member, and the alternate will be called or brought to the location.

Article 102. The voting will end at 1800, but could be considered closed if, in accordance with the list of voters, all have exercised the right to vote. It cannot be closed while voters are waiting to exercise their right to vote.

Article 103. There will be two ballot boxes in each Ballot Receiving Board: One for the deposit of ballots for the election of president and vice president of the Republic and another for ballots for representatives to the National Assembly. Each box will be duly identified.

Article 104. Voting will proceed in the following manner:

a. Each voter will personally appear before the Ballot Receiving Board and present his Civic Book.

b. The Ballot Receiving Board will receive the Civic Book, verify whether the voter is registered in the Electoral List, and, if he is, proceed to give him the corresponding electoral ballots.

c. The president of the Ballot Receiving Board will explain to the voter how to cast the vote, informing him that he cannot remain more than 2 minutes in the area established to guarantee the secrecy of the vote.

d. On each ballot, the voter must mark with an X the box of the party or alliance of his preference and place it in the corresponding ballot box.

Once he has voted, the voter must place a finger of the right hand or, in its absence, of the left hand in a container of indelible ink, making sure that the finger is covered up to the base of the fingernail. The Ballot Receiving Board will return the duly marked Civic Book to the voter.

Article 105. Persons having some physical impairment may be accompanied by a person of trust to exercise their right to vote.

Article 106. The president of the Ballot Receiving Board must indicate in the corresponding box on the Electoral List whether the registered individual exercised the right to vote.

Article 107. The following is prohibited on the day of the vote:

a. Public meetings or spectacles that interfere with the development of the elections.

b. The sale of alcoholic beverages.

c. Carrying arms into the polls.

d. Arriving drunk.

e. Advising the voters inside the polls to vote for a specific party.

f. Congregating around the polls.

Only those voters waiting in line, in accordance with their arrival, can remain at the entrance to the polls.

g. Placing political party propaganda inside the polls.

h. Any other activity tending to prevent or disrupt the normal development of the vote.

These prohibitions will also be in effect on registration days.

Article 108. Once the voting has ended, the members of the Ballot Receiving Boards will draw up a record stating the following:

a. The time that the voting ended.

b. The number of voters.

c. The names of inspectors who witnessed the vote.

d. The number of unused ballots.

The members of the Ballot Receiving Boards must sign the record; the inspectors may sign it if they so desire.

CHAPTER XIV -- ON THE COUNT

Article 109. Once the voting has closed and the record has been signed, the Ballot Receiving Board will proceed to conduct the count in the sight of the inspectors if there are any; the ballot boxes will be opened after their condition has been noted.

Article 110. The ballots will be counted and examined to verify that their number corresponds with the number of persons who voted, in accordance with what is noted in the Electoral List.

Article 111. Valid votes are those made on the official ballots, marked in one of the boxes of the list of candidates of the political parties or alliances.

Article 112. Null votes are:

a. Those made on unofficial ballots.

b. Those marked in two or more boxes.

c. Those with a mark placed in such a way that the voter's choice cannot be discerned.

ch. Ballots deposited without marking.

d. Ballots torn or damaged in such a way that the voter's choice cannot be discerned.

Article 113. The valid votes will be classified and counted in the following way:

a. The Receiving Board will classify and count the valid votes for president and vice president that each political party or alliance receives. Once this count has been completed, it will make the corresponding annotation in the vote count record.

b. The same procedure will be followed for the representatives to the National Assembly.

Article 114. The vote count record will be drawn up in the way and with the copies that the CSE determines:

It must include:

a. The total number of votes cast.

b. The number of valid votes.

c. The number of null votes.

ch. The votes obtained by each party or alliance.

d. The signature of the members of the Ballot Receiving Board.

The inspectors may sign if they so desire.

Article 115. Once the count has ended, the president of the Ballot Receiving Board must inform by telegraph or any other means the Supreme Electoral Council and the regional, subregional, or special zone council of the voting results.

Article 116. The president of the Ballot Receiving Board will immediately, personally, and under guard take the following documents to the electoral council of his district.

a. The installation record.

b. The record of closing the vote.

c. The vote count record.

ch. The valid votes.

d. The null votes.

e. The unused ballots.

f. The Electoral List.

Article 117. On receiving the reports of the vote results from the Ballot Receiving Boards, the CSE will add up the totals and proceed in accordance with what is established in Chapter XV of this law and will make known the results of the elections for president and vice president and for representatives to the National Assembly through the social communications media.

Article 118. Once the Electoral Council of each district receives the documents to which Article 114 of this law refers, it will undertake a recount of the votes. The inspectors of the political parties or alliances may be present.

Article 119. Once the recount has concluded, the corresponding Electoral Council must draw up the record in accordance with what is established by the CSE. The record must note that total number of votes won by each party or alliance, and it must be sent immediately to the CSE. The record will be signed by the members of the corresponding Electoral Council; the inspectors of the parties or alliances may sign it if they so desire.

Article 120. Once the CSE receives the vote recount records and the final results are established, they will be published in LA GACETA, the official newspaper, once any appeals, established in Chapter XVI of this law, have been resolved if any have been presented, or once the corresponding deadlines have expired if no appeal has been presented.

CHAPTER XV -- ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Article 121. The election for president and vice president will be by the system of relative majority. This is understood as the largest number of votes obtained by any of the candidates in the election.

Article 122. Representatives to the National Assembly will be elected using the system of proportional representation in accordance with what is stipulated in the following articles.

Article 123. The voters in a district can only cast their votes for one slate of candidates without introducing any change.

Article 124. To assign the seats to the different slates of the parties or alliances in each electoral district, the CSE will proceed in the following manner:

a. The total number of valid votes in the district will be divided by the number of seats to be elected, obtaining the electoral quotient.

b. The political parties or alliances will be ranked in accordance with the number of votes won, from highest to lowest.

c. The total number of votes won by each of the political parties or alliances will be divided by the electoral quotient. The result of this division will be the number of seats that will be assigned to each party or alliance.

ch. Regarding the candidates for the National Assembly, those elected will be those designated in the order that they appear in each of the slates presented by the political parties or alliances, until the number of seats assigned to each of them has been filled.

Article 125. If after the procedure of the previous article has been applied, seats still remain unassigned, the following procedure will be used:

a. The remaining votes of each party or alliance will be added up in all the districts.

b. The number of unassigned seats in all the districts will also be added up.

c. To obtain the electoral quotient for the distribution of the remaining seats, the total number of remaining votes of each of the parties or alliances will be added up and will be divided by the number of unassigned representatives.

ch. To distribute the unassigned seats, the total number of remaining votes of each party or alliance will be divided by the electoral quotient obtained in accordance with the previous point. The result of this operation will indicate the number of representatives assigned to each party or alliance.

d. If, after the distribution in accordance with the previous points, there were still unassigned representatives, they will be assigned to the parties or alliances that obtained the largest remainders, in decreasing order.

The representatives who are assigned to the parties or alliances in accordance with the procedure established in the previous points will be selected in accordance with the order of the slates in the districts in which they obtained more remaining votes.

Article 126. Only those political parties that register to take part in the elections, alone or in alliances, participate in them, and obtain at least one representative to the National Assembly will be recognized as political parties with legal status.

The political parties that lose their legal status can continue to function as political groups and once again request their legal status in accordance with what is established in the Nicaraguan constitution that is promulgated.

CHAPTER XVI -- ON ELECTORAL LITIGATIONS

Article 127. The vote in any Ballot Receiving Board will be null:

a. When the Ballot Receiving Board has been formed illegally.

b. When the voting has been carried out in locations other than those established by the appropriate electoral authority.

c. When without justified cause, the results of the vote have been issued outside the established period.

Article 128. There will be a new count if due to mathematical error in totaling the count of the Ballot Receiving Boards the results of the vote are considerably affected.

Article 129. A request for annulment of the vote due to the reasons established in Article 127 and due to mathematical error as established in Article 128 must be introduced by the inspectors of the parties to the Ballot Receiving Board while it is in being.

The Ballot Receiving Board will abstain from issuing an opinion or decision, limiting itself to sending the request with all the vote documents to the Electoral Council of its district.

Article 130. Once the Electoral Council of the district receives from a Ballot Receiving Board a request for annulment of the vote or for a new count, it must resolve this request within 5 days, notifying the petitioner of its decision, which cannot be appealed.

Article 131. Once the vote of a Ballot Receiving Board has been declared null, the Electoral Council of the district will notify the CSE, so that if the votes are decisive for the result of the election, it will call for a new national or district election, as the case may be.

Article 132. The election of a candidate will be annulled if it is proven that he has falsely met the requirements established in this law.

If it is the election of president or vice president, new elections will be called to replace him.

When it is the case of representatives to the National Assembly, the following candidate in the slots in the district will be called.

Article 133. The elections will be null if there is fraud, bribery, subornation, or violence in the vote or the count.

If the election was for president and vice president and it is proven that the defects determined the victory of the candidates, the CSE will call a new election.

If the defects affect the list of candidates for representatives to the National Assembly in the same way, the CSE will call regional, subregional, or special zone elections.

Article 134. When a mathematical error in totaling the count of the votes occurs in the Electoral Councils, and this is decisive in the results of the vote, the CSE must carry out a new count.

Article 135. Only the political parties or alliances participating in the elections can present the request for annulment to which Articles 132, 133, and 134 refer and they will do so before the CSE, supporting their request and indicating the norms that they believe have been violated, accompanied with the proof they deem opportune.

Article 136. The term for presenting the previous appeal will be 5 days after the CSE makes known the results of the election pursuant to what is established in Article 117 of this law.

Once the appeal has been presented, the following working day the Electoral Council will summon the interested parties or alliances through an announcement that will be published in LA GACETA, the official newspaper, and will notify the attorney general. They will be able to argue and present the proof they see fit within 5 days.

Once this term has expired, the CSE will make a decision within no more than 10 days.

Article 137. If the annulment is justified, the CSE will act in accordance with what is established in Article 133 of this law.

CHAPTER XVII -- ON ELECTORAL CRIMES

Article 138. The following will be penalized with incommutable arrest of 10 to 180 days and a 500 to 2,000 cordoba fine:

a. The citizen who does not follow the instructions of the Ballot Receiving Board on the way to exercise suffrage and with his malicious conduct hinders the normal voting process.

b. He who damages or destroys electoral propaganda.

c. He who does not comply with the provisions of this law or the resolutions of the CSE in the area of electoral propaganda.

ch. The public officials, employees, or authorities who do not heed the orders of the electoral organizations.

d. He who tries to register or vote more than once.

Article 139. The following will be penalized with incommutable arrest of 6 to 12 months:

a. He who with violence or threat forces another to:

1. Support a specific candidate.

2. Vote in a specific manner.

3. Abstain from voting.

b. He who with cajolery or gifts induces another to cast his vote for a specific candidate.

c. He who by any means obstructs the development of the registration and voting activities.

ch. He who goes armed to the registration, voting, or counting activities, except the members of the Electoral Police who are fulfilling their functions.

d. Those who maliciously lose the vote count record of the Ballot Receiving Board.

e. He who registers or votes two or more times.

f. The members of the Ballot Receiving Board or any electoral official who carries out registrations outside the established location or time.

g. He who gives false data to the Ballot Receiving Board when registering.

Article 140. The following will be penalized with incommutable arrest of 1 to 2 years:

a. He who threatens with a weapon or attacks in any way the members of the Ballot Receiving Boards.

b. He who, using his functions or authority, pressures his subordinates to vote in a specific manner or to abstain.

c. The member of a Ballot Receiving Board who maliciously does not appear at the established location and time to exercise his functions.

ch. He who removes a ballot box or destroys electoral material.

d. He who through acts or threats of violence prevents or hinders the holding of an election or limits electoral freedom.

Article 141. The district criminal judges and the military judge advocate's office, as applicable, will have jurisdiction to hear electoral crimes.

Article 142. Unless they justify to the respective authorities the reason for their nonregistration, those who do not register in the Electoral List will be disqualified for 3 years from holding public posts of election or appointment.

Article 143. The provision in the previous article will not be applicable to the Nicaraguans who are accredited or work in diplomatic or consular missions or are in international organizations in representation of the Nicaraguan Government and cannot register or vote in the country on the corresponding dates.

CHAPTER XVIII -- GENERAL AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 144. In Special Zone 1, the electoral quotient will be obtained by dividing the total number of valid votes by the seats to be elected plus one.

Article 145. All the state officials and institutions will give the electoral organizations and officials the support that these require for the exercise of their functions.

Article 146. The Interior Ministry will assign a sufficient number of policemen as Electoral Police under the orders of the CSE during the registration period and 2 days before and up to 5 days after election day.

Article 147. The Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services (TELCOR) will give preference to the mail sent by the electoral organizations. These will be exempted from postal and telegraph charges.

Article 148. The CSE can address the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction so that in the places where counterrevolutionary aggression is being experienced, it will take the necessary measures to be able to hold the election.

Article 149. Once the election results are published in LA GACETA, the official newspaper, the president of the CSE will present to those elected the respective credentials within 15 days.

Article 150. The president of the CSE will verify the credentials of the members of the National Assembly, confirm the quorum, declare the first session open, preside over the election of the first board of directors, and swear in its members.

Article 151. The president and vice president of the republic will take office before the National Assembly and will be sworn in before the president of the National Assembly who will present to him the country's emblems.

Article 152. The president and vice president will take office and the National Assembly will be installed on 10 January 1985.

Article 153. The CSE is empowered to resolve any matter dealing with electoral affairs that is not provided for in this law in accordance with the provisions of common law.

Article 154. The present law will enter into force on its publication in any mass communication media, not precluding its subsequent publication in LA GACETA, the official newspaper.

Issued in the sessions hall of the State Council in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, on 15 March 1984.

"50 YEARS LATER...SANDINO LIVES"

CARLOS NUNEZ TELLEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL

RAFAEL SOLIS CERDA, SECRETARY OF THE STATE COUNCIL

THEREFORE

This is a law of the republic. To be published and implemented.

Issued in the city of Managua on 26 March 1984. "50 YEARS LATER...SANDINO LIVES"

Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Sergio Armirez Mercado

Rafael Cordova Rivas

TELEVISION SYSTEM NOW 'AUTONOMOUS' INSTITUTION

PA042221 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] As of today, Monday, 2 April, the Sistema Sandinista Television Network is beginning Channel 6's identification with a new presentation. This measure is in compliance with the decree issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction [JGRN], in which the Sistema Sandinista Television Network is defined as an autonomous state institution.

The workers of the system, immediately after the revolutionary triumph on 19 July 1979, identified their television stations with the FSLN's acronym in recognition of the vanguard of the liberation struggle in our country. The television stations, owned by private enterprises at the service of the Somozist dictatorship and investors close to the regime, in the past served the interests of exploitation and oppression. However, with the triumph they were rescued and recovered for the Nicaraguan people, who have seen coverage of the enormous task of rebuilding Nicaragua, constructive criticism, and suggestions to the revolutionary campaign in our newscasts and television programs.

During these 4 and 1/2 years, the Sistema Sandinista Television workers have felt proud to identify this station with the acronym of the vanguard, the FSLN; and because of this, we face the challenge of making television in our country a true source of communication, information, guidance, entertainment, and culture. In this great effort, we have achieved many technical as well as artistic and cultural breakthroughs. We have also contributed to the rescue of national values. Our signal covers three times more of the national territory than it has in the past. Above all, our own people have played the main role in the national television programs. Peasants, laborers, professionals, technicians, small and medium merchants, industrialists, and farmers -- all the social, economic, and political sectors that in the past never had access to this electronic medium of communication -- today as they directly contribute to the construction of the new Nicaragua, have found in the Sandinist Television System a platform to express their ideas and concerns.

REBELS CLAIM 86 TROOPS KILLED OVER WEEKEND

PA042020 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1835 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Anti-Sandinist rebels have killed more than 86 [figure as received] government troops in recent fighting in Nicaragua, a guerrilla group reported today. A statement by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) claims that 55 government troops were wounded in fighting over the weekend near El Yaro in the Province of Matagalpa, in the central part of the country. The statement adds that the guerrillas also captured a Sandinist Army post in Las Brisas in Matagalpa in another attack over the weekend. The rebels downed two Sandinist Air Force helicopters, which were supplying logistical assistance to government ground troops during the weekend fighting, it added.

In a separate clash, the communique added, FDN troops killed 7 government soldiers and wounded 25 others in an attack Thursday near San Jose de Bocay, 160 km north of the capital in Jinotega Province. There has been no official comment in Managua on the rebels' claims. Some 8,000 FDN rebels, armed and financed by the United States, have made incursions into Nicaragua, crossing the border from Honduran bases for more than a year.

In a separate incident, Adan Artola, spokesman for the Miskito, Sumus, and Ramas, MISURA, an indigenous guerrilla group, declared that more than 2,000 Indians had fled from the fighting in Ninayeri in Nicaragua along the Atlantic Coast. MISURA claimed that it occupied the township over the weekend, killing 70 government troops, and that Sandinist aircraft later bombed the region. Artola said that the Indians reached the Honduran township of Auca, 15 km north of Nicaragua, on Monday morning.

Newsmen who returned from the region yesterday, after an approximately 75-km walk from the Indian villages, said that they saw approximately 600 of the refugees but heard that more would cross the border over the weekend. It is estimated that 12,000 Miskito Indians have taken refuge in southern Honduras, claiming that they have been ordered to leave their villages by the Sandinist government.

ARDE REPORTS MARCH MILITARY ACTIVITIES

PA050445 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Bulletin released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, "in Sarapiqui San Juan Department, free territory of Nicaragua" on 4 April]

[Text] The month of March marked an increase of clashes in relation to the previous month, a positive product of the consolidation phase carried out in a territory in excess of 6,500 square km that has become impenetrable for the enemy and is under the complete control of ARDE's armed forces, which are spread throughout the area.

Activities were carried out by our troops in increasingly larger areas. They are going deeper every day into the zone of Nueva Guinea, preparing the trap around the fortress of El Castillo -- which is temporarily in enemy hands but is destined to fall into our hands in a short time..

Our columns received the order to search and attack, and they engaged in 18 battles. The patrols' goals were to set ambushes, and they engaged in 15 clashes. Our forces also attacked 15 military barracks. This represents a total of 38 [as heard] war actions, and we inflicted 393 casualties on the enemy. We were able to confirm 216 dead and 29 wounded [figures as heard]. In addition, we destroyed a tug boat and a boat in the San Juan River. We also destroyed a jeep. All these were owned by the interventionist army. We suffered the heroic deaths of 7 companeros, and 12 others were wounded.

It is important to recall the impressive potential of human resources that support ARDE, whose forces grow by the day. Large numbers of Nicaraguans are increasing its ranks; they are mostly peasants who walk for weeks to establish contact with our forces and cross our lines to join the patriots who struggle to liberate Nicaragua from the oppressive foreign yoke and its lackeys. As a result of this continuous growth, more than 10,000 armed men are now clearly aware that they are fighting for the most beautiful of ideals and have a high fighting morale and revolutionary spirit.

Without totalitarianism or return to the past!

SOVIET NAVAL FLEET SETS SAIL FROM HAVANA

PA051809 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1749 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Havana, 5 Apr (EFE) -- The Soviet Navy fleet headed by the aircraft carrier Leningrad today set sail from the Port of Havana. The Soviet fleet arrived in Havana on 26 March on an "official and friendly" visit, coinciding with the announcement of the upcoming U.S. Navy maneuvers "Ocean Venture-84" in the Caribbean Sea. During their stay in the Cuban capital, the Soviet naval officers were received by Raul Castro, minister of the Cuba Armed Forces, and other military authorities of the island.

The course of the Soviet fleet has not been reported, but according to various Western sources they will remain for at least a while in the Caribbean Sea. The detachment is comprised of the antisubmarine Udaloy, a diesel submarine, and a tanker ship in addition to the aircraft carrier Leningrad. The Leningrad, 17,000 tons, is carrying 18 helicopters and, according to the U.S. Pentagon, is the first Soviet ship of this type to arrive in Cuba in the past 15 years.

Officials Bid Farewell

FL060150 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] After a successful stay in our country, the Soviet naval detachment specializing in antisubmarine warfare departed this morning from the Port of Havana. Officers of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy and officials of the City of Havana as well as city residents bade farewell to the Soviet sailors.

MONTANE HOLDS TALKS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION

FL051845 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate Politburo member and member of Cuba's Communist Party Secretariat, has received Vasiliy Borisenkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and second secretary of the CPSU in Moscow Province, and Al'girdas-Mikolas Brazauskas, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania. The delegation visited Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Villa Clara, and Matanzas Provinces where it met with party leaders from these areas.

At the meetings, the officials discussed the Cuban Communist Party's relationship with the CPSU. Rafael Polanco and Juan Morente, first deputy chief and an official, respectively, of the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations, were also at the meetings, along with Konstantin Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Union's ambassador to Cuba.

CABRIZAS BLAMES WESTERN SUPERPOWERS FOR CRISIS

FL060139 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas said today in Lima before the 20th ECLA ministerial meeting that the crisis affecting the region is mainly the result of inequalities imposed by Western superpowers. The internal structural problems and poor economic administration in many Latin American countries are additional factors contributing to this crisis.

RAUL CASTRO SPEAKS AT DEFENSE MANEUVERS

FL051654 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Army General Raul Castro's speech in Pinar del Rio Province at the defense zone maneuvers; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, if there should unfortunately come a time to defend ourselves from an invasion or an attack, which would be an invasion of Cuba, we must be sure, from this moment, that we will not only fight until our last drop of blood has been shed, but until the invaders' last drop of blood has been shed. [applause] If this situation should occur, we must be convinced that sooner or later we will defeat them, once they are in the country. We must work, live, and fight with this conviction.

That is why we have the nation that we have, the party that we have, and the chief that we have, Comrade Fidel. Fatherland or death. [applause and shouts of "We will triumph"]

UJC OFFICIAL ADDRESSES ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FL052120 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The main celebration of the 22d anniversary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] and the 23d of the Jose Marti Pioneers Organization was held in the presence of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Carlos Lage Davila, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the UJC, opened the ceremony with a brief address.

[Begin Lage recording] The UJC is 22 years old today and the Jose Marti Pioneers Organization is 23. These anniversaries belong to the new generations and to all our people, who also celebrate them as if they were their own because of their deep revolutionary significance and close familiar relationship. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans representing various generations have had and have in the Pioneers and the UJC their first schooling in communism. [end recording]

During the celebration, our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, awarded the UJC flag of honor to the youth organizations of 19 work centers and schools of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior. He also presented the individual decorations granted by the youth organization to the 46 young persons who had most distinguished themselves in work, study, and defense. At the ceremony prizes were also awarded to the winners of the 30th Anniversary of the Assault on the Moncada Barracks socialist competition.

[Begin Lage recording] The new generations grow and are educated in a spirit even more intransigent and revolutionary; this has been true until today and will be true forever. With the spirit of Marti and Fidel, each young Cuban will fulfill his duty to his country. [end recording]

The youth who were decorated with the Order of Julio Antonio Mella and the medals Jose Antonio Echeverria and Abel Santamaria, in which are synthesized their extraordinary merits in creative work, study, research, defense, sports, and internationalism, and the collective organizations that because of their exemplary attitude received the flag of honor constitute the maximum exponent of the new generation that day after day is building socialism.

CANADIAN DEFENSE COLLEGE DELEGATION VISITS

PA041945 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] A delegation from the Canadian National Defense College composed of a major general, 17 colonels, seven captains, four gendarmerie [as heard] superintendents, a warrant officer, and representatives of business and the Canadian Government have been visiting Cuba since Sunday. The delegation also includes civilians and officers from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States who are members of the college.

This visit is part of a study program by the institution which includes Brazil and Costa Rica. The delegation has planned a series of social and economic conferences and will visit several government institutions and places of historical interest. In a note delivered to the Havana press, the delegation acknowledged the opportunity to visit Cuba and talk with our country's leaders.

Departs for Costa Rica

FL060157 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] The delegation of the Canadian College of Defense today concluded its 4-day visit to Cuba. The chief of the delegation, General (Johnson), said they learned a lot about conditions in Cuba and developments and improvements which have taken place after the revolutionary victory. The Canadian military and those accompanying them departed for Costa Rica.

REPORTERS REACT TO REAGAN PRESS CONFERENCE

FL051800 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 5 Apr 84

[International commentary by Irma Caceres of the PRENSA LATINA staff and television commentator Miguel Toirac, during the "Revista de la Manana" program -- live]

[Excerpts] [Toirac] Good morning, television viewers. This morning we will be discussing some of the subjects discussed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in his press conference last night. Evidently -- in my opinion at least -- Reagan tried to justify many of the present international conflicts. He emphasized with great grandiloquence that the United States was going to propose a new treaty on chemical weapons -- the control of chemical weapons worldwide. He referred to the situation in Lebanon and also, very briefly, in spite of expectations, to the situation in Nicaragua. He sated that in Nicaragua difficulties would be created for the Nicaraguans. And of course he referred to something we all know about: the substantial assistance that the United States gives to the genocidal regime of El Salvador. These are the four fundamental topics which the American President discussed in his press conference and which we are going to comment on today.

[Caceres] I believe there was a main theme in this press conference and in each of the subjects discussed, and it was a phrase used by the President regarding the use of the adequate dissuasive mechanisms. This is a rather grandiloquent phrase but it is basically a question of continuing to increase U.S. military might as a matter of state policy in each of the regions of the world, as we have seen in the topics discussed concerning Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America.

I believe that this is an element that has been present in each of the latest speeches, public appearances, and press conferences of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and that it reflects the main line of U.S. policy that has been carried out and reinforced -- this militarist line -- during the 3 years of the Reagan presidency and that will be carried out in future programs in accordance with military plans and budgets already approved. I think that in one way [changes thought] despite the continuity of what the President calls adequate dissuasive mechanisms, which simply means strengthening U.S. military power to overcome other powers, in this case the socialist community and especially the USSR. I think that the President was a little late -- he may realize this -- with the proposition that the U.S. press and other members of the western press have begun to refer to as the announcement by the U.S. President of a chemical weapons control treaty. I said that the President was late because it must be remembered that last month, March, and in February, the USSR presented a proposal -- coordinated with the Warsaw Pact countries -- for world-wide control of chemical weapons. And this program seeks their total disappearance; that is, not partial, not gradual, but absolute elimination. I think that this proposal had an international impact but of course the United States did not support it. We should keep in mind that every time the USSR makes a positive proposal the United States pays no attention but later presents what it calls a new announcement on the same subject, in this case on chemical weapons control.

[Toirac] Many participants in the news conference were surprised that Reagan could make such a proposal with such bombast when only a few days earlier the so-called space war conference had ended, that is, the conference to control antisatellite weapons, which was also proposed by the USSR to avoid war in space.

[Caceres] It is amazing the interest that the United States has in the production of chemical weapons, and the quantity of chemical weapons that it has in storage in the United States. It is really alarming. And the use and testing of these weapons! We have known for a long time that the United States has used this kind of weapon, and the Vietnamese people and all of Vietnam are still suffering the consequences of their use in the U.S. war of aggression against Vietnam. The United States has run other tests much more recently in Grenada, and it has done so in Central America. We are also familiar with U.S. ties to other governments such as the Israeli Government, by virtue of which -- through this collaboration -- chemical weapons are tested in the occupied territories.

At the same time we also see how the United States uses its great propaganda apparatus, which unfortunately sometimes takes up the entire market [as heard] and manages to convince public opinion and a lot of people, how it uses propaganda to establish -- as in the case of all other arms -- that the USSR is testing and preparing new chemical weapons, as the United States did in the cases of Afghanistan and Kampuchea, and much more recently in the war between Iran and Iraq. Nevertheless, we know and it was publicly stated in the United Nations that the different groups that have traveled to these countries at the request of the United States have been unable to find any proof, despite the pressure applied by the U.S. Government to get the groups to state that the USSR is testing chemical weapons and, in this fashion, obtain this justification.

[Toirac] An attempt was made to place the blame for the setback -- since he used the word setback we'll use it, too -- in Lebanon on the U.S. presence in Lebanon and on the public debate in Congress regarding the U.S. presence in that country. That is, he pointed to this public debate as one of the causes for the withdrawal when everybody knows that it was his problem, that they were not carrying out the functions which they had initially gone there to carry out as part of the multinational peace force. And furthermore the progressive forces of Lebanon demanded the withdrawal of these foreign occupation troops.

[Caceres] Of course. But, Toirac, you're asking too much. In addition to the public failure of U.S. policy in the Near East that has been internationally recognized, you want Reagan to recognize it, too, in the middle of a tremendous campaign for this year's presidential elections. U.S. policy -- this tremendous defeat through the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the stagnation of a very critical situation in Lebanon, the crisis in Israel that has been worsened by the very failure of U.S. policy -- is one of the things that President Reagan has against him in his reelection plans. The problem had to be handled this way, downgrading its importance a little although we know that U.S. activities in the Near East have been the main element for a long time. We cannot forget that this region of the world is a priority area and the most important in the world to U.S. foreign policy.

[Toirac] We must comment on other important subjects mentioned at the press conference. One is the well known U.S. aid to El Salvador, well known to everyone as the debates in the U.S. Senate on the requests for more money for military and economic aid to El Salvador. And another is the situation with Nicaragua. In the specific case of Nicaragua, it is no secret that in the Security Council the United States vetoed the resolution condemning the mining of Nicaraguan ports, a criminal act that could affect [changes thought] that obviously will not affect U.S. ships because, among other things, they will not enter the area knowing that there are mines, but that has cost the lives of many persons from other countries including the USSR. That is, a veto that means the tacit support of the United States in the UN Security Council for the continuation of the war that is no longer covert. I would say that rather than covert it is practically a declared war against the Nicaraguan people.

[Caceres] This veto is the reaffirmation of the denunciation made by the Government of Nicaragua that the United States is participating directly -- and it could not happen any other way because of the cost of these mines -- is participating in this criminal war and economic blockade against Nicaragua. I believe that in spite of that veto [changes thought] this shows us irrefutably how far U.S. policy goes in using any means, even when it is considered internationally to be a crime, to wage economic war against a pre-determined country. In this case, against Nicaragua, the United States is waging economic war as a matter of state policy.

[Toirac] I agree. Reagan has even used the pretext that the Sandinists are exporting their revolution to other countries. Of course this was also used against our country. Let's see. Do you have anything else to add?

[Caceres] I have something, of course. But I believe our time is up.

CONGRESSMEN CITED ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN C.A.

PA042158 Havana International Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government has admitted for the first time that mobile military units of its Army are operating in El Salvador against the revolutionary forces of that Central American nation. A Pentagon communique states that those military units have been attacked on three occasions by the FMLN guerrilla forces. In November 1983 and in March, the rebels attacked the U.S. Army mobile training units located in the Department of San Miguel. A similar thing happened to the U.S. military unit located in La Union in February.

In a U.S. Senate session, legislator James Sasser said that the first attack took place 5 months ago and that neither the Congress nor the U.S. people has been advised of the fact. Sasser said that he will ask the U.S. Foreign Affairs Committee to investigate such incidents so that the congressmen can reach their own opinions based on the evidence and can adopt the appropriate measures.

For his part, Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy said that the United States is participating actively in the war in El Salvador. The government, he said, is slowly but surely moving into the conflict. Kennedy based his words on a WASHINGTON POST report which confirms that U.S. aircraft based in Honduras stage operations of direct support to the Army and Air Force of the Salvadoran regime. The author of the article claims that he was witness to the guerrilla attack on the Salvadoran Government troops based in San Miguel. He added that the attack took place on 17 March at which time a U.S. aircraft began to circle over the scene of the fighting when the action broke out. The journalist noted that according to ranking Salvadoran Army officers, that aircraft was part of a broad reconnaissance operation to support the attacked troops, who were given quick information on the positions of the rebel troops.

On discussing the issue in a parliamentary debate, Senator Edward Kennedy asked what would be President Ronald Reagan's next step in El Salvador. One of these days the rebels are going to down one of the U.S. aircraft. The pilot will die or will be taken prisoner and then Reagan will go out on the street to denounce such an incident as an act of war, Kennedy stated ironically. Kennedy agreed with the author of THE WASHINGTON POST article that these reconnaissance and support missions represent a more direct involvement in the Salvadoran war by a U.S. mission whose functions and dimensions were constantly expanded step by step last year.

The procedure consists of the aircraft instantly transmitting their information to the Salvadoran Army high military command, where there are always U.S. military advisers on duty who transmit this information immediately to the commanders in the field of operations. This has been confirmed by Pentagon spokesmen, who say that the flights of the U.S. aircraft from Honduras are intended to keep daily watch over rebel troop movements and to supply direct information to the Salvadoran Government troops. The same sources state that AC-130's equipped with quick-firing heavy machine guns are among the aircraft that have flown over Salvadoran territory on war missions.

Hence Senator Kennedy's statement that the Reagan administration is carrying out other covert wars in Central America, one against Nicaragua, and the other one against El Salvador, is quite true.

'FRAUD EVIDENT' IN SALVADORAN ELECTORAL 'FARCE'

PA042242 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 2 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The majority of people all over the world believe that the elections held in El Salvador on Sunday 25 March were a failure of U.S. policy in El Salvador. To the U.S. President, however, that electoral farce was a victory for freedom. This is not an example of the popular saying that no one is blinder than he who does not wish to see because the farce and the fraud are extremely evident.

The words of another U.S. citizen, who described the Salvadoran elections as a sad example of democracy, can be cited to counter Ronald Reagan's statement. This U.S. citizen is former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Ramsey Clark made this statement upon returning to Washington from El Salvador, where he headed a delegation from the Council on Hemispheric Affairs that went to that country to oversee the elections.

The 25 March farce in El Salvador was entirely the work of the U.S. Government, which financed it to the tune of more than $10 million, sent experts there to work with the electoral officials, and directed the elections through U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who converted the U.S. Embassy into the country's electoral headquarters.

The war against the Salvadoran revolutionary forces prevented the voting in close to 90 municipalities, and the people were threatened in order to get them to the polls. Voting did not take place in many towns because the guerrillas control a vast expanse of territory, and in other locations the fighting between rebels and government soldiers hindered the voting.

In a country that is in a state of war it is impossible to hold elections which exclude the rebel forces. The candidates represented only the interests of the corrupt oligarchy. None of them represented the Salvadoran people. Jose Napoleon Duarte, of the Christian Democratic Party, has already ruled and failed, and is responsible for countless crimes committed by the repressive forces during his administration. Major Roberto d'Aubuisson of the Nationalist Republican Alliance created and directs the death squads. Francisco Jose Guerrero, president of the National Conciliation Party, has always been at the service of the dictatorships and is a founder of the fascist group ORDEN [Nationalist Democratic Organization].

(Eliseo Rovira Mexco), member of the Central Electoral Council, admitted that close to 1,000 ballot boxes were lost and suggested that they could be found in Salvadoran military circles. The lack of organization during the elections was so widespread that it created favorable conditions for all types of fraud.

To top it all off, a few hours before the polling stations were closed the authorities allowed the people to vote at any station, even if their names were not on the voting lists.

In addition to the struggle and (?squabbles) between the presidential candidates, the military have now come into play. Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Miguel, blamed the Central Electoral Council for the disorganization that reigned throughout the electoral farce. It is precisely there, at the installations of the 3d Brigade, that a large number of ballot boxes and blank voting slips are being held, so that they can be filled out in favor of the Christian Democratic candidate.

All of these incidents prove that the political situation of the Salvadoran regime is steadily deteriorating. However, the United States has no misgivings about continuing its military support to this corrupt regime by approving new credits and sending new shipments of arms.

POSSIBILITY ANALYZED OF COUP IN EL SALVADOR

PA052211 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 4 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] Shortly after the closing of the Salvadoran elections on Sunday, 25 March, and in view of the puzzling delay of the authorities to announce the final results, many ask what the attitude of the men in uniform will be in view of the initial failure of the most intransigent positions represented by the candidacy of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson of the reactionary Nationalist Republican Alliance.

At the same time, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said in Washington that even if the Salvadoran military men seized power, as in other electoral contests, the United States will continue backing whatever regime assumes the presidency of the country. Such a statement, which is nothing new in Washington's well known attitude, and the disquieting silence observed in the past few days by Roberto D'Aubuisson, the most aggressive of the presidential candidates, have encouraged speculation regarding an eventual military coup.

In concurrence with this, there are the recent claims of the Christian Democratic Party confirming the existence of a plot by ranking military officers against the candidacy of Jose Napoleon Duarte, which could materialize either before or during the upcoming second electoral round in El Salvador.

According to the Christian Democrats, Colonels Denis Moran, Roberto Estaben, Jorge Adalberto Cruz, and Nicolas Carranza, who hold key positions in the Salvadoran Armed Forces, plan to avoid at all cost the victory of Napoleon Duarte. These officers enjoy former Major D'Aubuisson's fullest trust, and it would not be surprising if the entire plot were headed by him, who in 1980 tried to overthrow the Christian Democratic military junta headed by Duarte, who is the U.S. choice to occupy the presidential chair.

U.S. SENATE PROPOSES TO RESTRICT SALVADORAN AID

FL051505 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The U.S. Senate has approved an amendment which would suspend all military aid to the Salvadoran regime if a military coup removes the president-elect selected in the upcoming May elections. The amendment, if passed, would be added as a restriction to the almost $62 million Salvadoran emergency military aid package which has been under discussion in the Senate since last week.

The amendment was proposed by Democrat Senator Dale Bumpers who, anticipating a definite victory in the second round of elections by Christian Democrat contender Jose Napoleon Duarte, says that a military coup led by ultrarightist candidate Roberto D'Aubuisson might be attempted.

HONDURAN CAPTURED BY FMLN ADMITS CIA TIES

PA040220 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] A member of the Honduran Army captured by Salvadoran guerrillas has confessed to counterinsurgence activities in several Central American countries on instructions from the CIA. Ramon Maldonado, captured by FMLN forces, admitted having participated in operations to eliminate Honduran leftist leaders. In a statement to the rebel station Radio Venceremos, the prisoner revealed that the instructions came directly from General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, recently dismissed as Honduran Army commander.

DETAILS REPORTED OF ALVAREZ 'ARREST' IN HONDURAS

PA050201 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] Honduran radio stations have revealed that before resigning from his post Army Chief Gen Gustavo Alvarez was accosted by a subordinate who put a pistol to his temple and immediately handcuffed him. Radio America maintains that the dismissal of Alvarez and four other generals came as a result of a consensus among battalion commanders in response to evidence of corruption, abusive treatment, the presence of paramilitary groups, and arrogance in **their** regions.

According to the report, Gen Alvarez was arrested on Saturday by Major Israel Navarro after he had attended a meeting of the Association for the Progress of Honduras in San Pedro Sula. Alvarez has headed the organization for the past year. News circles also revealed that Maj Navarro was acting on the orders of Colonel Roberto Martinez, commander of the 105th Brigade based in San Pedro Sula. Reports indicate that Martinez may be promoted to general in the next few days and appointed chief of the Public Security Forces.

Other reports indicate that the Communist Party and the Honduran Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers issued a joint communique in Tegucigalpa urging President Roberto Suazo Cordova to fulfill his promises of democratic renovation after expelling the instigators of institutionalized terror and war. The document states that only the mobilization of the people can prevent democratization efforts from being brought down by persons crouching in the shadows of government who oppose those efforts.

GORMAN SAYS U.S. MILITARY PLANS UNCHANGED

FL051559 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] U.S. General Paul Gorman, commander in chief of the Southern Command based at the Panama Canal, has stated that General Gustavo Alvarez's exit as head of the Honduran Armed Forces will not modify U.S. military plans for Honduras. Gorman issued the statement after meeting in Tegucigalpa with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova and new Armed Forces chief, General Walter Lopez.

Last Sunday the U.S. and Honduran Armies began the first stage of the Grenadier I maneuvers which over the next few months, should bring more than 4,000 soldiers into the border area with El Salvador.

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT SAYS ARMS CACHE FOUND AT CUBAN EMBASSY

PA041447 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 4 (AFP) -- The Grenadian police, in cooperation with the Caribbean Peace Keeping Force (CPF), have discovered a major arms cache in the now-vacated Cuban Embassy in Grenada, the government announced here today.

A press release issued by the Government Information Service (GIS) said the discovery was made in late March after police received reports that attempts had been made to enter the unoccupied embassy building.

The find included over one million rounds of ammunition and "at least" 49 M-16 rifles, 40 AK-47 rifles, numerous handguns of various sizes, three rocket propelled grenade launchers, and ammunition, the release said.

The cache was discovered under a closet floor by a guard stationed at the facility after the Cuban charge d'affaires left on March 19, the release said.

TRADE COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

FL032336 Bridgetown CANA in English 1736 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 3 (CANA) -- Head of the Public Workers Union, Basil Harford, is the new president of the Trade Union Council (TUC) of Grenada, it has been announced here. He replaces Vincent Noel, who was acting president of the TUC when he was killed during last October's short-lived military coup.

First vice president is Wilfred Haynes, with Anslem De Bourg as second vice president, while Clarice Charles will serve as secretary-treasurer and Denis Thomas as assistant secretary. Among the notable omissions from the 18-member executive is John Ventour, the previous general secretary, who was charged last February along with 10 others with conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the coup. Last year's Vice President Jim Wardally, president of the Technical and Allied Workers Union, is still to return to the island after applying for study leave to travel to East Germany.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS FACES PNM RIFTS OVER APPOINTMENT

FL022328 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 2 Apr 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 2 (CANA) -- Rifts in Trinidad and Tobago's ruling People's National Movement (PNM) have deepened as the party moves to appoint a new vice chairman, party sources said here today.

According to the sources, Prime Minister and political leader George Chambers is keen on attorney general and minister of legal affairs, Senator Russell Martineau, to replace Basil Pitt who has been appointed high commissioner to Canada.

But some key members of the party who have criticised Chambers' performance say they will oppose any move to manoeuvre Martineau, a relative political newcomer, into the post over such contenders as Works Minister Hugh Francis, who has twice tried unsuccessfully to be elected.

They said the strength of Chambers, who succeeded Dr Eric Williams on his death three years ago, will be tested when the PNM holds its General Council meeting April 15. At this meeting, Chambers' recommendation of Martineau is expected, the sources said, but the council is also free to consider nominations from any other member.

"And, the names of people like Hugh Francis can very well come up again," they said. However, other party sources have dismissed reports of a power struggle suggesting that they were being promoted by "individuals who want to break up the party."

PNM Chairman Francis Prevatt also shrugged off the reports, which he felt were "normal in any vibrant party." However, he dismissed mid-March reports that Martineau had been appointed to the vice chairmanship by Chambers in an alleged bid to have more personal control of the party and government. "There is some confusion," he admitted, but added: "Whatever happened and however it happened, there is no appointment."

Party sources said that when nominations were received for several key posts (including vice chairman) at the PNM's delayed annual convention last February, "Martineau's name was not there for any post."

A special general council meeting during the convention suspended the elections on Chambers' recommendation. He was reported as making a plea for the party to infuse new blood. "I believe that the time has come for the party to show a new face and new image to the population."

Prevatt has made it clear, however, that "there is nothing wrong with the political leader making a proposal... he is perfectly entitled. And, naturally, his proposal may carry some weight." Chambers, himself, had suggested that party members ignore reports of difference among the hierarchy. "If we are to believe everything we read," he said, "what we think that is happening in Ortoire/Mayaro (a constituency 80 miles south of here where he was on a meet-the-people tour) is that a General Council member arms himself with either a shotgun, a revolver, or a machine gun before he goes to a General Council meeting."

That is "because everyone wants to shoot each other -- that is, if you believe everything you read," Chambers said.

The General Council comprises persons from the rank and file, based on representation made by the constituency groups. A central executive appointed out of the General Council conducts the day-to-day business of the party.

However, the EXPRESS newspaper which has carried most of the reports dealing with Chamber's apparent mid-term crisis, said yesterday: "Mr Chambers can say what he likes, the fact is, he has a problem within his party."

PNM watchers have also pointed to frank public comments by Works Minister Francis and National Security Minister John Donaldson, who are seen as Chambers' main rivals within the party. For instance, there was Donaldson's comment on the dismissal of the general manager of state-run Trinidad and Tobago Television, Roy Watts, allegedly at the instigation of State Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams. "I say it is a hurtful and it is a waste of good talent," he told an EXPRESS reporter.

Francis comment was: "My emotional response is that another black man bites the dust."

TTT Board Chairman Nicky Inniss later denied any involvement by Williams and said the decision to fire Watts was a strict board decision.

Veteran EXPRESS political writer David Renwick has suggested that Chambers might suspect Francis of being "a stalking horse" for Donaldson, a man who projects a "black nationalist" image, and who Renwick described as "a very ambitious man." Party sources said the current power struggle and the events of this month's General Council meeting could hold even greater implications for next year's annual convention when elections for the post of party leader are due.

They said this was the time when the anti-Chambers faction would most likely challenge him for the post and seek his removal as prime minister if the first exercise proves successful.

CARONI REPORTS SUGAR CROP UNLIKELY TO MEET QUOTA

FL032327 Bridgetown CANA in English 1734 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 3 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's largest sugar producer, Caroni Limited, has falled behind its projections for this crop and is unlikely to meet its quota to the European Economic Community (EEC) this year, industry officials said.

The state-run company has so far produced 46,555 tonnes of sugar from 640,261 tonnes of cane -- a ratio of 13.75 tonnes of cane to one tonne of sugar.

This is more than 10,000 tonnes short of the 56,822 tonnes of sugar projected to be produced from 707,600 tonnes of cane by April 6, the officials said. With the crop officially due to end on May 11, the officials felt it was unlikely that Caroni could meet its quota of more then 62,000 tonnes. When the crop was started last January, company officials had set out to produce a total of 76,450 tonnes sugar from 950,000 tonnes of cane.

They have blamed heavy rains in January and a high incidence of unplanned fires for hampering progress towards the target. Caroni has indicated that all the raw sugar produced at its two factories this year will be for export.

An official said this is in keeping with government policy to ensure that the country fills its exports quotas -- 62,500 tonnes to the EEC and 18,000 tonnes to the United States. This means, one official said, that the company will have to import 17,000 tonnes of wash grey sugar for local consumption.

MEXICO

CENSORSHIP OF INFORMATION MEDIA CRITICIZED

PA011643 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Mar 84 pp 7-A, 8-A

[By Manuel Stephens Garcia]

[Excerpts] Every day we feel the control exercised by the government over the information media more strongly. It seems as though special personnel exist to censor the news and speeches made in our society. Everything that concerns government policy and official ideology is cut out, distorted, and subjected to annulment. This is not the case with praise, flattery, or support for the positions of those who today have the country's leadership in their hands.

The people who listen to radio and television are becoming annoyed by the systematic bombardment of bulletins read by the announcers and commentators describing the activities of the president, secretaries of state, governors, or some influential municipal officials. Statements made by some magnate in private enterprise or by certain progovernment labor leaders are also reported.

Nothing or very little is heard of compliants made against the high cost of living, unemployment, and low wages, or of the strong criticism and protests raised by leftist leaders against the government's economic policy that is seriously hurting the country's working masses. Under these conditions, information is one-sided. We only hear about the official speeches, while those made by the people and their socialist leaders are daily ignored. Silence has been imposed on the revolutionary opposition.

If the restrictions imposed on one of the people's basic freedoms continues, it will not take long for all the affected political, social, and cultural organizations to take joint action against those authorities and information media responsible for violating the Constitution.

SURINAME

LIBERATION COUNCIL DENIES WORKING WITH AMERICANS

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[Text] Chin-a-Sen, president of the Council for the Liberation of Suriname, has denied that the council is working with either Americans or mercenaries. This denial is in reaction to a U.S. television report showing a group of Surinamese rebels being trained by two Americans in French Guiana.

Chin-a-Sen says it is possible that rebels have contacted the American trainers, but without the council directors' knowledge. The group of 16 rebels was detained some time later, expelled from French Guiana, and sent to the Netherlands Antilles. Fifteen of these rebels have returned to the Netherlands, while their leader Roy Bottse has stayed in the Netherlands Antilles.

The Surinamese Government has expressed its indignation at the fact that these rebels have not been punished by the Netherlands authorities.